The Literary Digest

Vol. XXVIII., No. 2. Whole No. 716. NEW YORK, JANUARY 9, 1904. Price per Copy, 10c

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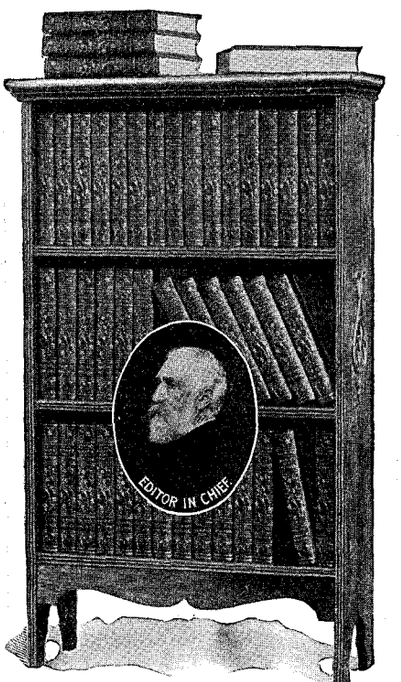

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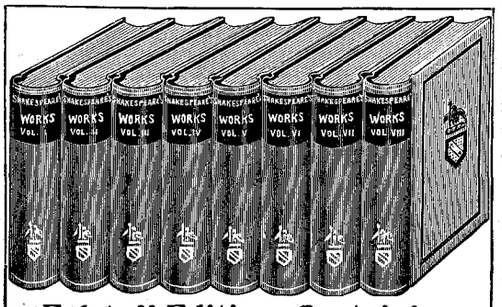

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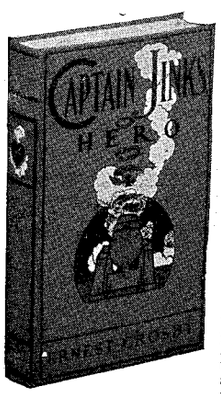

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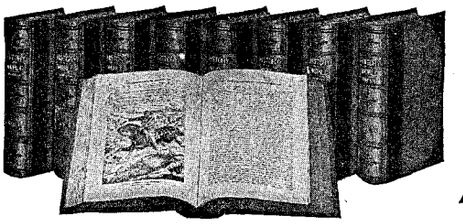

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The Literary Digest

VOL. XXVIII., NO. 2 NEW YORK, JANUARY 9, 1904 WHOLE NUMBER, 716

Published Weekly by

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY.

30 Lafayette Place, New York. 44 Fleet Street, London.

Entered at New York Post-Office as Second-Class Matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

PRICE.—Per year, in advance, $3.00; four months, on trial, $1.00; single copies, 10 cents. Foreign postage, $1.50 per year.

RECEIPT and credit of payment is shown in about two weeks by the date on the address label, which includes the month named.

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LITERARY DIGEST INDEX.

The Index of Vol. XXVII, of THE LITERARY DIGEST will be ready about January 15, and will be mailed free to subscribers who have previously made application. Other subscribers who wish to be supplied regularly with future indexes will please send request accordingly.

Publishers of THE LITERARY DIGEST.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE CHICAGO THEATER DISASTER.

ALMOST every civilized nation, by personal messages from its ruler and public men, or through the press, has in the last few days expressed its sympathy with our great city of the West, whose holiday season was turned into tragedy in a frightful half-hour on Wednesday afternoon of last week. Indeed, it was within ten minutes, according to some newspaper reports, that the gathering in the Iroquois Theater, composed almost entirely of women and little children, was changed from holiday merriment to a scene of panic, horror, and destruction. History is searched almost in vain by the writers of the press for a more appalling theater disaster. The Ring Theater fire in Vienna, in 1881, resulted, according to one authority, in the loss of 447 lives; according to another, in the loss of 570. The New York *Times* says of the Vienna fire: "The early reports said that the loss of life had been 700 persons. The list was afterward swelled to 1,300 missing, but again reduced later to about 580 dead and 917 unaccounted for." In the number of known dead, therefore, the Chicago disaster, with 587 victims, is as appalling as any calamity of the kind ever known. The Brooklyn Theater fire in 1876 took 295 lives, the Charity Bazar fire in Paris in 1897 took 131, and the great Chicago fire of 1871 took 200.

The most searching attention of the press is turned upon the construction of the ill-fated Chicago playhouse, and upon other theaters throughout the country. The Iroquois Theater, completed only a month before the fire, "was considered," says the Chicago *Evening Post*, "to be one of the safest in the country." The architect who designed and superintended the construction of it says in an interview that he "read every theater disaster in history to avoid errors in this identical situation," and considered the Iroquois one of the safest he ever planned. The managers, we are told, were so confident that it was fireproof that they took out only $10,000 fire insurance on it. Yet an electric light, considered the safest kind of stage light, started the fire, the hand fire-grenades seemed ineffective, the asbestos curtain refused to work, the lights in the auditorium went out, many of the exit doors could not be opened, and some of the fire-escape landings are said to have lacked stairs or ladders, so that all the safeguards seemed to conspire in a fatal failure at the critical moment. A special despatch to the New York *Herald* sums up the causes of the disaster as follows:

"Careful investigation into the Iroquois fire horror disclosed three predominant causes for the holocaust. It was the consensus of opinion of experts who made an investigation along the same lines that there could be no doubt as to the correctness of the conclusions. They follow:

"1. The sudden shutting-off of all lights within the structure at a time when people were endeavoring to leave their seats. The darkness caused people to stumble up or down steps; those behind piled on top, and all were suffocated and killed.

"2. The unfortunate spreading of the fire on the stage and its unlooked-for communication into the auditorium, caused for the most part by an asbestos (so-called) curtain that did not work and which, if it had dropped and had been thoroughly fireproof, would have cut off the fiery tempest and held it within the stage space.

"3. The unquestioned failure of doors leading out of the theater to the fire-escapes and to landings to work when the people made the effort. The doors do not lock with bolts, but are held by levers, which are inclined to stick. The levers were ice-coated and not in running order when the crowd attempted to open them to get to the steel stairway.

"It was admitted that there undoubtedly were minor reasons which contributed their share in bringing up the percentage of dead. Among these were the large number of women and children who actually refused to leave the theater when they saw death lurking near—this because of fright affecting the nerves and muscles. Also the apparent desire of the theater employees to hold the crowd in check, the wish being kindly, and the shutting instead of the opening of exits.

"Also, the sad mischances that caused hundreds to drop to the floor before their strength had fully failed, and the piling up in the aisles, making it necessary for a few men to try to carry out women and children who really had the strength to get out if a misstep here and there had not failed them. Once down, once below the panicky horde, and all hope for the fallen was virtually gone.

"No circumstances which changed the first sane opinions regarding the origin of the fire developed. Plainly, the sparks from electric wires leading to or connected with the so-called calcium hanging and being operated from the upper left-hand corner of the stage ignited bits of drop scenery and curtains. In two minutes the whole system of seemingly innumerable 'drops' and side settings was ablaze. The actors rushed from the stage, the side stage exits were opened, a torrent of cold air came in, the blaze was increased to the point of fury, there was an explosion, the glass in the ventilating-apparatus at the peak of the stage structure broke, there was a new rush of air, and then the horrible, angry outward sweep of flame, sparks and choking smoke."

After the Iroquois fire Mayor Harrison found, upon investigation, that every theater in the city lacked one or more of the safeguards required by law, and he ordered them closed until the law was complied with. In New York the theater managers assure the reporters that "none of the mishaps which made the Chicago horror possible could happen in this city"; but Mr. Sturgis, the retiring Fire Commissioner, declares that "the same thing could happen in New York, and it is only a question of time when it will happen." "To say that a similar catastrophe is impossible in the

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theaters of this city," says a prominent New York theatrical architect, "is to say a very evident untruth."

It is perfectly possible to build a fireproof playhouse, says the New York *Evening Post*, and that "is the damning fact which proves beyond dispute the existence of criminal negligence in every case of fire in a place of public amusement." It continues:

"There is no difficulty whatever in building a theater of absolutely incombustible material. There is no reason why anything but iron, steel, brick, stone, or concrete should be used in the construction of a theater, except for the stage, where wood, of course, must be employed; and wood can easily be made as impervious to flame as brick or cement itself. It is just as easy to make everything else in the theater—the scenery, the ropes, the costumes, and whatever furnishings may be required for the seats or for decorative purposes—capable of resisting fire. In other words, it is only deliberate and wicked recklessness which permits the existence in any theater of a single article that will burn at a flash.

"Moreover, in these days of electricity and steam there is absolutely no excuse, except the contemptible one of cost, for the presence of fire in any shape within the precincts of a theater. All the furnaces for heating, all the dynamos for the provision of light and power, can be placed in their own fireproof structures entirely independent of and disconnected from the theater proper. And all these facts are known and long have been known by every architect, by every builder, by every theatrical manager, and it might almost be added by every actor and actress of any account in the country. At least twenty-five years ago experiments were made at Wallack's Theater upon scenery, painted in distemper, and treated with tungstate of soda. A woodland scene was placed in the center of the stage, and a gas flame, ten or fifteen feet in length, proceeding from the nozzle of an ordinary hose, was directed against it. The scenery gradually became red-hot where the flame touched it, but only at that point. Presently the red-hot part crumbled away and the flame passed through the hole to the other side without doing any further harm. The scenery did not catch fire at all, in the ordinary sense of the word, the damage being confined simply to the spot to which the fierce flame was applied. At the same time it was demonstrated that cloth, wood, and linen could be rendered equally slow-burning by a similar process. Another important point to be remembered in connection with these experiments is that the cost of the necessary chemicals, of which there are several varieties, is insignificant. There is not the shadow of a shade of an excuse for the men who neglect, or for the authorities who do not insist upon, this precaution.

"These experiments were the outcome of the excitement which followed the terrible fire in Brooklyn Theater in which hundreds lost their lives. They were fully reported in the public press, were discussed in theatrical and scientific papers, and in the Legislature, and no influential person connected with the stage could have been ignorant of them; and yet after a lapse of nearly a quarter of a century theatrical managers, with the consent of the public authorities, are putting all kinds of fuel into their new fireproof theaters as complacently as a man throws coals into his furnace, and then affecting amazement and horror when the stuff catches fire. One would have thought that sensible men would have learned before this that fireproof structures filled with combustibles are not fireproof at all. So far as this Chicago horror is concerned, it matters very little in what way the spark was applied. The one point from which public attention must not be diverted is the fact that it had combustible matter to feed on. Managers will put such matter into theaters so long as the law permits them to do so with impunity. They are not men of murderous intention, yet in their recklessness or ignorance they may be almost as dangerous as an insane person with homicidal proclivities. But all the responsibility does not rest upon them. The public can defend itself, if it chooses, through the legislatures. If it can not be roused on such an occasion as this to demand the enactment and enforcement of penal laws compelling the proper chemical treatment of all stage trappings, it must take the consequences."

The New York *Evening Journal* proposes another remedy:

"Make it a penal offense for any man to insure a theater against fire. Fire insurance makes all secure and safe—from the point of view of the owner. If the lights behind the scenes cause unnecessary fires, the insurance company will pay. If the nature of the scenery, covered with oily paint and made of flimsy rope, offers a bonfire for any spark—the insurance will fix that. If carelessness allows the asbestos curtain to get out of order and the building burns with five hundred human bodies—the insurance will fix that. Forbid by law fire insurance on theaters. Then you will see the owners and all concerned make it their personal business to keep the theaters from burning down. Let the fire loss fall on those who can prevent the fire—if they will take the trouble. Forbid fire insurance on theaters, and the asbestos curtain will be tested regularly. Forbid fire insurance on theaters, and all the safety appliances will be kept in working order. Loss of money to owners, do you say? Yes, but not unless the theater burns up. And if the theater burns, with its crowd of women and children, does one individual's little financial loss make so much difference in the grand total? If that loss of money should prevent two or three such fires, would the price be too great? No man should be insured against risk when his carelessness may mean death to thousands."

PAYING DAMAGES TO COLOMBIA.

GENERAL REYES'S request that we pay damages to Colombia for the loss of Panama is not seriously opposed by most of the papers that comment on it, but his suggestion that the amount be decided by The Hague court is criticized as being out of harmony with the Monroe Doctrine. The request for damages is an alternative request. The general asks first that we restore Panama to Colombia, or permit Colombia to reconquer it; but these requests are regarded as having been put into the note more as matters of wish than of expectation, so that what appears as an alternative is treated as the main proposition. While the question of damages from this country to Colombia remains undecided, Colombia is confronted by a proposition from Panama to assume its share of Colombia's external debt if Colombia will recognize the new republic. This proposition is made through Sir H. Mortimer Durand, British ambassador to the United States, by M. Bunau-Varilla, Panama's minister at Washington. The external debt of Colombia is reckoned at about $15,000,000, and Panama's share of it, according to population, would be about $1,000,000.

The Baltimore *Herald* advises Colombia to accept Panama's million-dollar offer. It remarks:

"Mr. Bunau-Varilla's announcement that Panama is willing to assume a proportion of the Colombian debt based upon population statistics—one-sixteenth—will probably be regarded by Colombia as altogether inadequate to compensate her for her losses, but this division of the debt is all that the Bogota Government can expect. Panama's obligation to share any part of the debt is disputed, but the offer to assume a proportionate share is a stroke of good policy.

"Had Bogota statesmen in the past not pursued the policy of exploiting the Panama department for their own profit and of exacting contributions in robber-baron style, a sixteenth would appear to be an inequitable share of the debt, in view of the value of public property in possession of Panama. But Panama property was not used in the past for Panama's interest, and the isthmians reaped very little advantage in return for their revenue-producing capacities. Therefore it is idle for the Colombians at the present time to seek a larger solatium. If they are wise they will accept the sixteenth in the nature of a windfall."

The Philadelphia *Press* thinks that the United States should also be "generous" to Colombia. To quote:

"The United States will be glad to see Panama pay Colombia at least $1,000,000. But should our policy in the matter end there? Would it not be wise for this great republic to assure in one way or another more liberal recompense? Under the strict application of the international code Colombia has no just claims on the United States. Panama made a successful revolution and we recognized the new Government. We were justified in doing so under the practise of nations, and doubly justified in view of our immediate interest. Colombia had contemptuously spurned the treaty her own Government had negotiated with us and had absolved us from any obligation. What we have to consider is not what we owe Colombia, for we owe her nothing, but what we owe to our own honor and greatness as a nation.

"Thus considered, can we afford to fail in generous action? We

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paid consolation money to Spain. We insisted on the reduction of the indemnity from China. We have gaged our action not by the merits of the other party but by our own sense of liberality and of moral standing before the world. Will it not be wise to treat Colombia, tho without just rights, in the same spirit? Shall we not thus strengthen our position with the republics of South America? Shall we not increase the respect of the world? We have no step to recall, but shall we not act a great part in dealing with our foolish and feeble neighbor?"

The Chicago *Record-Herald*, however, would reject the Reyes requests *in toto*. It says of the request for damages:

"Acceptance of the third proposition would mean an acknowledgment on the part of our Government that it was the cause of the rebellion and the loss which Colombia is alleged to have sustained by it. It would also carry recognition of the absurd contention that Colombia owned the Isthmus of Panama, when, as a matter of fact, it held only the always questionable right to govern Panama, a right that, as events proved, did not rest upon the willing assent of the Panama people.

"Any disposition on the part of our Government, indeed, seriously to consider these propositions would involve a condemnation of its own course in the Panama affair. Colombia's opportunity to promote and profit immediately by the greatest commercial and engineering project of modern times has passed beyond recall."

The New York *Evening Post* thinks that the Administration "could not think of refusing" to let our case go before The Hague court; and the New York *Times* says similarly:

"If the Government at Washington consents to any adjustment with Colombia, it will probably be on a basis of a money payment, the amount to be determined either by mutual agreement or by a recourse to The Hague tribunal. It is a judicial question, a question of what the treaty means. Shall we set up our interpretation of the treaty as infallible, and insist that our acts are beyond review? Will the Administration take the grave responsibility of informing Colombia that however great her loss and her sufferings she must bear them, that we will pay her no money? That would mean the breaking off of diplomatic and friendly relations; it would mean that we should have for years upon the borders of the new republic whose independence we are about to guarantee a resentful and hostile people. That would be unwise, improvident, impolitic. Does President Roosevelt really intend in this transaction to repudiate 'the principles of justice and right upon which repose the security of states and the welfare of peoples'?"

The New York *Sun*, however, recalls that when our representatives signed The Hague convention, it was expressly stipulated that nothing in the treaty should "be so construed as to require the relinquishment by the United States of America of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions." *The Sun* adds:

"That means the Monroe Doctrine. The interpretation of the treaty of 1846, with our guarantee of the independence of the isthmian territory against European aggression, involves the very core and kernel of the Monroe Doctrine.

"It is a purely American question, expressly excepted by us at The Hague from the class of questions of fact or treaty interpretation which we were willing to submit to the international tribunal for decision.

"It is quite proper, therefore, to answer that the interpretation of the treaty of 1846 with New Granada, and our duty, conduct, and responsibilities under that treaty, are no more fit subjects for judicial consideration and review at The Hague than is the Monroe Doctrine itself, God bless it!"

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

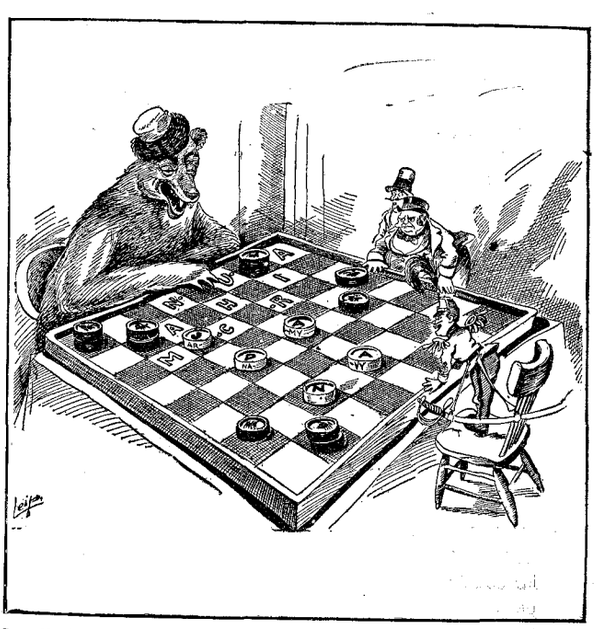
THE loss of a hundred lives in three railroad wrecks in one week has aroused a renewed demand that American railroads be run with more regard for the lives of the passengers. On December 21 ten persons were killed and thirty injured in a disaster in Kansas caused by an open switch; on the 23d sixty-five were killed and many injured in the wreck at Connellsville, Pa., where a fast express ran into some timbers dropped on the track from a freight-train; and on the 26th twenty-two persons were killed and thirty injured, some fatally, in a collision near Grand Rapids, Mich., a blizzard extinguishing the red light intended to warn one of the trains. Nor do these disasters stand alone. The report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, made public the week before, shows that in the year ending June 30 last there were 5,219 railway collisions of all kinds (about 14 a day) in the United States, in which 321 passengers and 3,233 employees were killed, and nearly 46,000 (mostly employees) injured. The commission remarks that this record is a disgrace to the American people.

The Washington *Times* indorses this opinion, and adds:

"It is even more than that; it is an indictment of American railroad corporations for wholesale murder, and of Congress for complicity in the slaughter through criminal negligence.

"Railway collisions are preventable, as every railroad manager well knows. There are no railway collisions in England, because

IF THEY FIGHT, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CHINA?
—Carter in the Minneapolis *Times*.



JAPAN—"Do you ever intend to move?"
RUSSIA—"I was just thinking what would happen to you if I did."
—Leip in the Detroit *News*.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA IN CARTOON.

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the law compels the use of an efficient block system. It is as practicable to enforce such a law in the United States as in Great Britain, but it is not easy to pass such a law while the railroad corporations are permitted by the people to fill the Senate, the House, and the lobby at Washington with their attorneys and agents.

"The disgrace to the American people lies in their careless toleration of the political activity of corporations deriving the right to exist from the public and enjoying special privileges, presumed to be granted in consideration of service rendered to the public. It is a reproach to the nation that, instead of governing its corporate creatures, it tolerates their meddling with government in any particular."

Nor is the conservative New York *Evening Post* less severe. It says:

"The directors of the railroads in this country are running them to make money. The president of a railroad never, for one instant, allows his general manager to lose sight of the fact that this is the one aim and object of his superiors. While every technical railroad man in this country is willing to acknowledge privately that our roads are run in criminal disregard of the safety of the public, there is not one brave enough to come forward and put the blame for such a condition of affairs where it belongs. If he did, he would not be able to get work as a conductor on a horse-car.

"The only hope of relief lies in the Interstate Commerce Commission, a body which up to the present time has not shown any striking zeal to go to the bottom of the trouble. So long as it is willing to confine itself to drawing up annual reports giving a list of the persons killed on railroads in this country, without taking any active steps to put a stop to the slaughter, our railroads will continue to hold the record throughout the world of killing and wounding more persons than those of France, Germany, and England combined."

The commission makes public the fact that only about one-seventh of the railway mileage of the country is worked with block signals, and suggests that Congress compel the roads to equip their systems with this device within a reasonable time. The newspapers indorse this suggestion, but most of them would also like to see the roads compelled to build more substantial cars. *The Locomotive Firemen's Magazine* recently published a picture of the wreck at Indianapolis last fall, in which the Perdue students were killed, showing the passenger-coaches smashed to kindlings, while a steel coal-car which bore the brunt of the collision looked as good as new. Coal is often carried more safely than passengers.

Says the Washington *Post*:

"The railway mail-clerks are asking for the enactment of a law by Congress requiring railroad companies to construct their railway mail-cars of steel, to make them as strong and substantial as are the Pullman sleepers now used. Statistics cited by the railway mail-clerks show that the mail-coaches—and the same is true of most of the day-coaches—are built much lighter than the sleepers. The result is that in case of a collision or wreck the heavy engine, with its tender at one end of the train and the heavy sleepers at the other, stand the shock of the collision, while the mail-cars and the coaches of light construction are crushed like egg-shells between these great weights. The records show that passengers in sleepers are rarely killed in railway collisions or ordinary wrecks. The sleepers, as a matter of fact, are seldom thrown from the tracks.

"The postal clerks ask that the mail-cars be constructed more substantially. They admit this would increase the weight of the trains and might cause a readjustment of schedules or a reduction of the size of the trains, but they feel naturally that the lives of the hundreds of postal clerks who are killed each year are worth the cost of the proposed change. The arguments presented apply with even more force to the need of better construction of the regular coaches on passenger trains. The sleeper traffic is but a small per cent. of the business of the railways. It would seem that the persons who travel in the common coaches should be entitled to every precaution for their safety. This is one of the problems of railroading in which the question of cost should not be allowed to enter."

WHAT THE NEW TENEMENT-HOUSE LAW HAS DONE FOR NEW YORK.

"NEW YORK ought to be abolished!" exclaimed a commission from Buffalo a short time ago, after an exploring trip through the New York slums. Well, it appears from a new book by the retiring Tenement-House Commissioner and his chief assistant, Mr. Lawrence Veiller, that the blackest features of the slum are being abolished. And it is under the workings of the new tenement-house act that this eradication is going on. "The whole sanitary condition of the city," we are told, has been "raised to a higher standard" since the new order began, and "the results of this work are clearly reflected in the reduced death-rate," which was 20 in the thousand in 1901, 18.77 in 1902, and 18.11 in 1903, the lowest on record for New York City.

Builders and landlords like the workings of the law as well as the tenants do. *The Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* said editorially three or four weeks ago: "Builders and property-owners have become reconciled to the higher standard. The former have found that new-law tenements rent quickly and can be built at a profit; the latter find they can make the necessary changes in old tenements, not only without loss, but with an actual benefit to their pockets." "One firm of shrewd East Side real-estate operators," say the authors of the new book, "finding that

A TYPICAL BACK YARD.

these improvements pay, is now making a practise of buying up these old houses, improving them as required by law, and then selling them at a profit, in some instances as high as $5,000." The magnitude of the problem may be suggested by the fact that "there are over 350,000 dark interior rooms in the tenement-houses of New York." The number of tenement-houses is reckoned at 82,652, and the number of people living in them at 2,372,079. Commissioner De Forest and his assistant say of the results of the new law:

"The discredited and horrible 'dumbbell' tenement, the pre-

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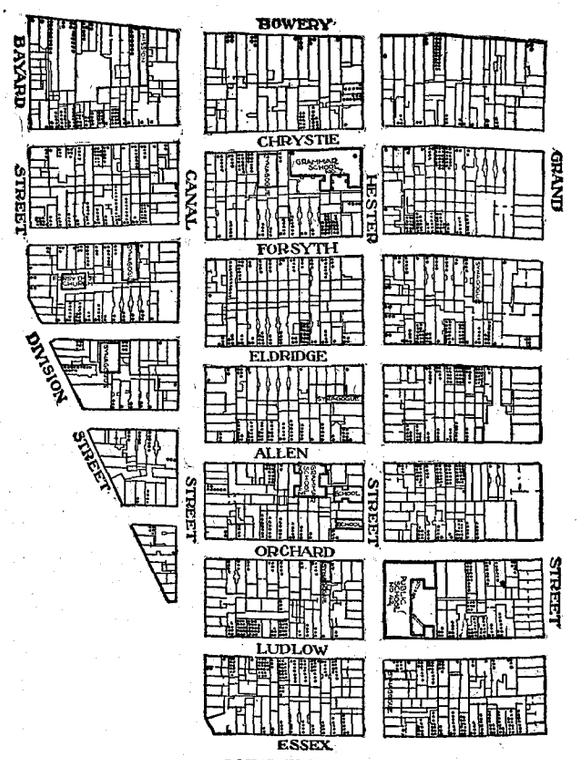
vailing type of house built in New York from 1879 until 1901, is now a thing of the past. At one stroke it was wiped out of existence as a type of future multiple dwelling.

"In its place is the new-law tenement, with large courts, providing adequate light and ventilation for every room in the building.

"What this one change means to the future social and sanitary welfare of the city can not be overstated. No longer can new buildings be erected with two-thirds of the rooms dark, with narrow air-shafts spreading contagion and disease throughout the community, with the windows of one house looking directly into the windows of a house opposite, twenty-eight inches away, destroying privacy and frequently subjecting children to sights and sounds of a debasing influence.



POVERTY MAP.

From the Tenement-House Exhibition. Prepared by Lawrence Veiller. Each dot represents five families who have applied for charity in five years, either to the Charity Organization Society or to the United Hebrew Charities.

"Instead, sanitary, comfortable, and decent houses are being rapidly built all over the city. In these every room is light. The great improvement in ventilation was vividly impressed upon a recent observer, who noticed with amazement all the window shades blowing out of the front windows of a row of these houses, so great was the circulation of air in the rooms. To any one familiar with the heavy, fetid air which prevailed in the old houses, the contrast is striking. Instead of windows opening in close proximity to windows of adjoining houses, no window now opens within twelve feet of a window opposite, and generally they are twenty-five feet apart.

"The air-shaft is no more. It should have gone years ago. In fact, it never should have existed. Thus has been removed from future buildings one of the most potent sources of danger in case of fire, as well as a prolific source of disease. Narrow and confined as it was, it acted in such cases as a flue, conveying the flames and smoke throughout the building.

"Overcrowding has been materially checked and the population more widely distributed. Where before twenty-six families lived on a plot of ground 25 feet wide and 100 feet deep, there are now but twenty-two families, and in many cases not more than sixteen. This result has been accomplished by reducing the height of the prevailing type of new tenement-house from seven stories to six stories, and by not permitting so great a portion of the lot to be built upon. . . . . .

"The dark halls, with all their moral and sanitary evils, can no longer be reproduced. In their place are light halls, having windows at each floor opening upon large courts.

"Greater fire protection has been afforded to the community in the new houses. The cellars of such houses, where one-fourth of all fires start, are completely shut off by a fireproof floor from the rest of the building, and the public halls and stairs are completely and entirely fireproof.

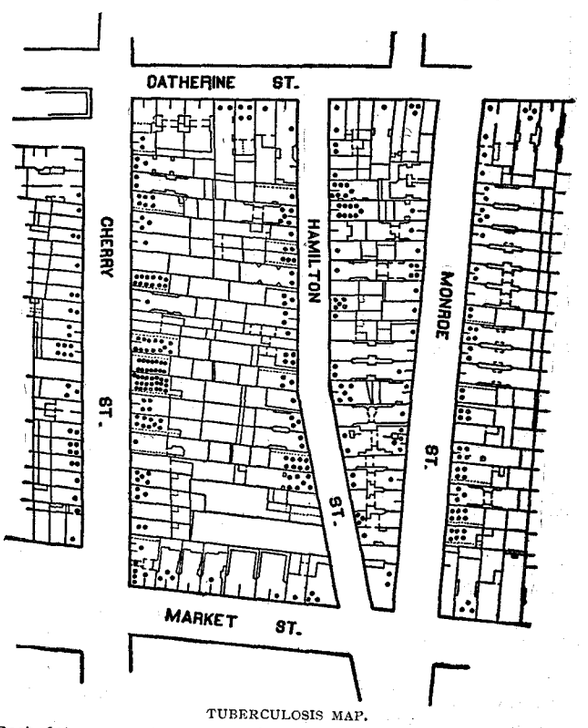
R. W. DE FOREST,
Retiring Tenement-House Commissioner of New York City.

"Probably no better contrast between the old and the new could be afforded than by the difference in the kind of fire-escapes required. Instead of light vertical ladders connecting the fire-escape balconies, which in case of fire would not be used by women, children, or aged persons, there are now substantial stairs.

"The extent to which the tenement-house problem in New York is thus being solved by 'providing proper types of new tenement-houses for the future, through adequate restrictive legislation, and by forbidding the erection of any others,' is best appreciated when it is borne in mind that during the year 1902 543 new tenement-houses were built, at an estimated cost of over $20,000,000, and during the first half of 1903 plans were filed for a still larger number, 699, at an estimated cost of $20,837,270.

"The new-law houses have been an unqualified success. Builders and owners who were at first bitterly opposed to the law are now outspoken in its approval, and many of them state that the new houses are more remunerative than the old ones. The demand for the new accommodations on the part of the tenants has been overwhelming. Not only have the apartments been rented in many cases before the buildings have been completed, but in some instances the apartments have been rented from the plans before the buildings were even started. Such a thing has never before been known to occur in the tenement districts.

"On the lower East Side, where the new houses have been built in greatest number, it is a Sunday diversion of the people to take



TUBERCULOSIS MAP.

Each dot represents one case of tuberculosis reported to the Board of Health in five years. Only half the cases are generally reported.

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their families and friends to see them, and to wonder at and admire the light rooms, the bath-tubs, and the other improvements. The rents in the new buildings are slightly higher than the rents in houses recently erected under the old law in similar neighborhoods, and rightly so, because they give better accommodations. Moreover, there is a general rise in rents throughout the city which has no relation to the new tenement law or to the new-law house. It is due to a variety of causes, among which may be noted the general increase of prices and cost of living, and the displacement of large numbers of the population by the destruction of many houses for extensive public improvements. The approach for the Delancey-Street bridge on the lower East Side alone displaced 10,000 people. It is, of course, obvious that until the supply of new-law houses in certain neighborhoods equals the demand, rents will tend to rise. It would be a sorrowful comment on the intelligence of the working people if they were not willing to pay a little more for vastly improved living accommodations."

DEMOCRATIC SEARCH FOR A CANDIDATE.

THE chaplain of a political convention that seemed to be unable to make up its mind on any program or candidate, according to a well-known story, not finding any petition in the prayer-book composed for just such an occasion, read the prayer "for those at sea." Expressions of opinion from all parts of the country seem to indicate a somewhat similar state of mind in the Democratic party. A careful inquiry made by the New York *Times* (Ind. Dem.) among the party leaders in every State and among the Democratic Senators and Representatives in Congress discloses half a dozen prominent candidates for the Presidential nomination, and a dozen more who are in the second or third rank of "possibilities." The Republican papers prefer to see in this situation the quandary of the donkey which hesitated between two bales of hay until he starved; but the New York *Evening Post* (Ind.) thinks the party is to be congratulated on its plenitude of presidential

BRYAN—"Say, Joey, I don't want to discourage you, but that doesn't count. I know." —Westerman in *The Ohio State Journal.*

possibilities. "From being a listless and leaderless party," it says, "they have become an alert organization, with an actual embarrassment of leaders." "There is nothing of the forlorn-hope air," it adds, "in the alacrity with which candidates are coming forward in different parts of the country." Gorman, Parker, Cockrell, Hearst, Gray, Garvin, Bailey, and McClellan, in the order named, are favored by the Democratic Senators and Representatives who are willing to express a choice; while the sentiment of prominent Democrats throughout the country, as gathered by the New York *Times*, is summarized as follows:

"The men who are regarded generally as those who will be the leading candidates are Senator Gorman of Maryland, Judge Parker of New York, Mr. Olney of Massachusetts, Judge Gray of Delaware, and Congressman Hearst of New York.

"The absence of sentiment in favor of the renomination of Mr. Bryan is notable. While it is evident that he still has an influential following in many of the States, and is the recognized leader of the Democracy in Nebraska, Mr. Bryan is everywhere regarded as being out of consideration as a candidate in 1904.

"If present intentions are carried out, no less than nine States will present to the convention the names of 'favorite sons.' These States and the men of their choice are as follows: Illinois, Congressman James R. Williams; Rhode Island, Governor Garvin; Pennsylvania, ex-Governor Pattison; Missouri, Senator Cockrell; Montana, Senator Clark; Oregon, Gov. George E. Chamberlain; Texas, Senator Culberson; Iowa, Congressman Martin J. Wade; and Kentucky, Henry Watterson.

"Senator Gorman appears to be most favored in States where there is a protection sentiment among the Democrats. The explanation of this probably is to be found in the attitude which Senator Gorman assumed on the Wilson tariff bill. Democrats who are not inclined to favor radical changes in the tariff are advocating his candidacy with some enthusiasm, but it does not appear that his support is confined to this class.

"The strongest Parker sentiment is found in New York, Connecticut, Michigan, Idaho, New Jersey, Indiana, Tennessee, and Florida. It is evident that other States are disposed to throw their support to him the moment he is declared to be New York's candidate.

"The probabilities are that New England will be solid for ex-Secretary Olney. There is also some sentiment for him in Indiana and other States.

"The delegation from Delaware will urge the nomination of Judge Gray, and there appears to be a sentiment in other States, notably in Kansas, that Judge Gray would be the strongest candidate the Democrats could select, in view of his conservative character and because of the friends he made among the laboring people by his rulings as chairman of the commission appointed by President Roosevelt to settle the anthracite strike.

"Congressman William R. Hearst appears to be the only one of the generally regarded available candidates who has established a propaganda in support of his candidacy. The information received indicates that his lieutenants are in almost every State engaged in the work of proselyting, and in some of the States their work seems to have been highly successful. According to the reports received, Mr. Hearst stands the best chance of securing the delegations of California, Nevada, Wisconsin, and South Dakota, and from many other States information comes about the organization of Hearst clubs and the effort which is being made to rally the labor element to the espousal of Mr. Hearst's candidacy."

Judge Parker, says *The Times*, "now stands at the head of the available list." Senator Gorman has not "a ghost of a chance to carry New York," the same paper believes, while "nobody takes seriously the talk about Mr. Hearst." "The chances are that, if the nomination comes to any New York man, Judge Parker will be the nominee," says the Brooklyn *Citizen* (Dem.). In New England a strong Olney "boom" is developing, and the Boston *Herald* and the Springfield *Republican*, two independent journals of weight and influence, are supporting it so strongly as to create the impression that they will support the Democratic ticket if he is nominated.

Senator Gorman has apparently lost ground in the South by his opposition to the Panama Canal treaty. The New Orleans *Times-Democrat* (Dem.) says:

"The astute politician very frequently overreaches himself and becomes the victim of his own astuteness. Senator Gorman has never been seriously regarded as a statesman in the better sense of that word, but he has always been considered a smart politician, and it was astonishing to see him destroy his rather meager chances for the presidential nomination by a misplay at an important stage of the game. The action of the Louisiana legislature in instructing the two Senators from this State to vote for the ratifica-

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tion of the Panama treaty definitely puts the Marylander out of the race. His attempt to secure the support of the Southern Senators in his fight against Panama having failed, he is no longer a candidate for the presidency, regardless of any views he may himself have on that subject."

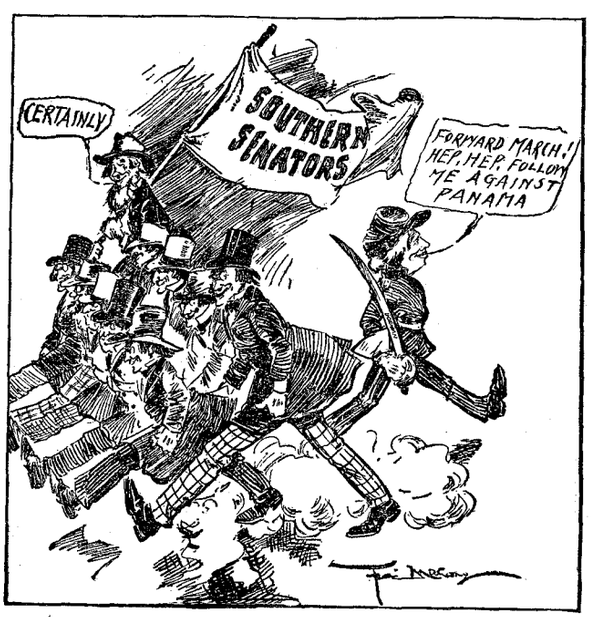
A Republican view of the Democratic situation may be seen in the following observations by the Milwaukee *Sentinel:*

"Without a distinctive financial theory, lacking a clear-cut economic policy, wanting a candidate that represents even a respectable faction of the anti-Administration voters, the Democratic party at the beginning of the year in which occurs a national campaign is very much at sea. It can haggle over the Panama situation, and find fault with the President's appointments. It can print cartoons in its newspapers in which the Republican elephant is represented to be overloaded with scandals, meaning thereby the corruption and fraud discovered and summarily ended by the President and his cabinet officers. It can also solidify the South, about whose loyalty to the Democratic ticket there never was a doubt, by lambasting Booker Washington, Dr. Crum, Mrs. Cox, negro domination, and social equality. But all this is hardly the kind of mental food to give to the members of a great party in a national campaign. They would far better make the contest for either free silver or free trade, and take defeat fighting like men, than to finesse and quibble like a party of cheap politicians."

The Atlanta *Constitution* (Dem.) retorts that if the "steam-heated Republican editors" are looking for discord, they might better let their eyes "roam over the ranks of their own party." It goes on:

"They should not ignore the significance of their ex-Senator Thurston's epigram that the Republicans are 'all for a man they do not want and all want a man that nobody dares to be for!' One great fact exists that none of these Republican brethren can wipe out or ignore, and that is the repulsion that the great business interests usually attached to their party feel toward the continuance of President Roosevelt at the head of the Government. These interests are too large and too powerful in political influence to be discounted. They are unaffected by the spectacular and are easily alarmed by reckless dealing with national powers and privileges. They fear Roosevelt, and his present affectation of tameness while the convention is being prepared for June next does not deceive them.

"It is all in the play for the Roosevelt boomers to cry 'it's a cinch!' and to talk rot about his invincibleness—but there have been other and safer party men than he who have been beaten into pulp between the nomination and the closing of the polling-booths in November. At any rate, it is growing upon his friends that he is not to be accounted safe until after the returns say so."



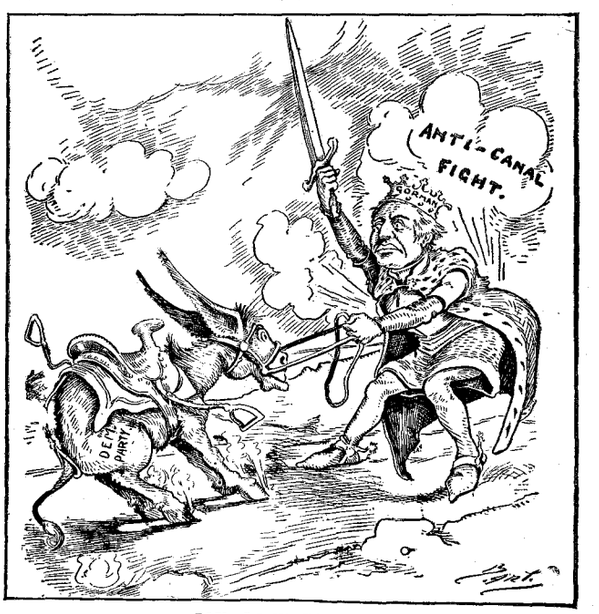
—Mahoney in the Washington *Star.*

LEADING FEATURES OF 1903.

MORE of good than of evil seems to be seen by the newspaper editors in their retrospect of 1903. On the dark side of the account are placed the Chicago theater fire, the railroad disasters, the Missouri valley floods, the labor troubles, the postal, land, and Indian scandals, and the Wall Street depression, and consequent hesitation in the advance of prosperity. On the other side, the newspapers recall that prosperity has pervaded the West and South, that our foreign commerce and immigration have beaten all previous records, that the Panama Canal has been brought a step nearer, that the Alaska boundary dispute has been adjusted, that reciprocity has been given to Cuba, that the friar lands in the Philippines have been bought, that the Department of Commerce and Labor has been added to the Cabinet, and that the enlargement of the Erie Canal has been authorized. Some of the foregoing, it is hardly necessary to say, are not considered unmixed blessings by some papers. Turning to events in the Old World, the first thing remarked by most papers is the fact that the year has not been stained by any great war. The "palace massacre" at Belgrade, the uprisings and slaughters in the Balkans, the killing of Jews at Kishineff, and the darkening war-cloud in the Far East, however, keep it from being called a year of peace. Domestic movements in European politics, such as the anticlerical campaign in France, the progress of socialism in Germany, the tariff campaign in England, the passage of the Irish Land Bill, and the Russian "reform edict" attract considerable notice. The discovery of radium is treated as the only great event in the scientific world, and the 140-mile-an-hour trolley-car in Germany the only great triumph in the world of mechanics. Among the great dead of the year are named Pope Leo XIII., Lord Salisbury, Mommsen, Lecky, Spencer, and Whistler.

The millionaires' gifts of 1903 are recounted in the following editorial from the Chicago *Tribune:*

"Mr. Carnegie is the most conspicuous figure in the group, not only because he gives far more than any other, but because he is the one who discovered that it would be a disgrace to die rich, and this set the others to thinking. The library is still a hobby with him, and this year he has given $5,595,500 for library buildings in ninety-six cities and towns in this country. He began giving away libraries in 1900. Since that time he has given 323 in the United States, at a cost of $21,722,500. In addition to these he has given this year $350,000 for a library in Toronto, $100,000 for libraries in



RICHARD III. TO DATE.

KING GORMAN I—"A horse! A horse!! My kingdom for a horse!!!"

—Bart in the Minneapolis *Journal.*

MR. GORMAN AS A LEADER.

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England, and $125,000 for a library in Barbadoes. He has given to colleges and other institutions in this country and abroad $1,357,000; to churches, $34,500; to The Hague Court of Arbitration, $1,750,000; for scientific research in Scotland, $5,000,000; for phonetic reform, $10,000; for the New York botanical garden, $2,000; to the town of Dunfermline, Scotland, $2,500,000; to the New York Engineers' Union Home, $1,000,000; for a pension fund for disabled workmen in the Carnegie Steel Works, $4,000,000. This makes a total of $25,824,500. He has not touched his principal. He has not given away this year's income, which, in round numbers, is $26,000,000. He must give away $50 every minute to dispose of his income alone. Then think of his huge principal!

"It would be rash to say that Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Sr., is haunted with fears of disgrace if he should be found dying with money in his coffers. His income, probably, is larger than Mr. Carnegie's, yet, while the latter has given away $25,824,500, Mr. Rockefeller has given away but $3,044,597, and more than one-half of this to the University of Chicago. His other donations include $173,500 to religious bodies, $282,000 to colleges, and $66,666 to the Nebraska State University, which that institution finally declined to accept on high moral grounds, notwithstanding the tempting array of sixes; and $30,000 to charity.

"Mr. Henry Phipps, another philanthropic millionaire, has given away $1,835,000, of which $1,500,000 is for a noble purpose, a free hospital for consumptives. Dr. D. K. Pearsons has kept his 'lever' pretty busily at work, but he has only given $200,000 to five little colleges and $50,000 to charity. The doctor, however, may make a better record in 1904, for he has over $300,000 of pledges to clear up in June, and after that he proposes to start in afresh, for he is determined that when he goes there will be none of his money left for any one to scramble over. And what has J. Pierpont Morgan given? Just $10,000 to the American Archeological School in Rome, whose dozen or so pupils are watching the forum excavations.

"These five men, who are the principal millionaire philanthropists, combined have given away about $31,000,000 during the year. As they are elderly men, and life is uncertain and time is short, they must expedite their benefactions if they do not intend to make their exit until they have given back all they have received. And yet their $31,000,000 will do great good in many ways."

The features of the financial and commercial year are summarized by the New York *Journal of Commerce* under the following heads:

"1. The spectacular collapse of the industrial combination or 'trust' craze.

"2. A consequent year of anxiety and depression on the Stock Exchange resulting in what became generally known as a 'Rich Men's Panic.'

"3. The culmination of and decided reaction from the iron and steel 'boom.'

"4. A year of widespread labor troubles and strikes, which checked building and other construction and became a potent influence of the reaction in steel.

"5. A year of wild excitement in cotton and of interference with manufacturing as a result of manipulation aggravating the scarcity of raw cotton. The year on the cotton exchanges of the country the most active recorded.

"6. Coffee speculation developed unprecedented activity during the closing months of the year and prices were sharply advanced on unfavorable crop predictions made in Brazil.

"7. Another record year for immigration, altho during the closing months the return of unemployed to their native lands became a feature.

"8. A favorable year for foreign trade. Imports of merchandise (for eleven months) amounted to $917,782,381—an increase of about $43,000,000, and exports aggregated $1,310,120,326—an increase of about $98,000,000; while the excess of exports increased about $55,000,000.

"9. Traffic conditions became more normal. Railroads had a less active tho a more remunerative year owing to the rigid maintenance of rates. Net earnings were proportionately better than in 1902, largely because there were no conditions corresponding with the coal strike of 1902, nor restriction of the corn movement, which last year reflected the crop failure of 1901. Traffic on the Great Lakes decreased 4 per cent. after an increase of over 27 per cent. in 1902.

"10. General trade—if we except iron and steel, and to a measurable extent cotton goods—has not shown pronounced reaction, altho, particularly during the latter half of the year, extreme caution was the general policy of distribution in all channels from the manufacturer to the retailer. Failures both in number and extent of liabilities compare unfavorably with 1902.

"11. Undoubted prosperity continued throughout the year in the agricultural sections; harvests, while not in any instance unprecedented, were in all cases materially above the average of recent years, and prices realized by the farmers, especially for cotton, were in all instances remunerative."

The chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor gives out the following interesting table showing some of the more striking trade figures for 1903, as compared with 1893 and 1883:

Items.	1883.	1893.	1903.
Deposits in savings-banks	$1,024,856,787	$1,785,150,957	$2,935,204,845
Depositors in savings-banks, number	2,876,438	4,830,599	7,305,228
Total bank deposits	*2,755,938,035	4,586,213,170	†9,315,193,912
Gold in circulation	344,653,495	408,535,663	627,025,092
Gold certificates in circulation	59,807,370	92,642,189	404,070,929
Total money in circulation	1,230,305,696	1,596,701,245	2,449,168,418
Per capita money in circulation	22.91	24.06	30.21
Bank clearings, United States	‡52,126,704,488	58,880,682,465	114,068,837,569
Tin plate, imported, pounds	484,038,688	628,425,902	109,913,293
Tin plate, manufactured, pounds	None.	9,819,202	†819,840,000
Gold production	30,000,000	35,955,000	†80,000,000
Silver production	46,200,000	77,575,757	†71,757,575
Coal production, tons	102,867,969	162,814,977	†269,081,049
Pig-iron production, tons	4,595,510	7,124,502	†17,821,307
Steel production, tons	1,673,535	4,019,995	†14,947,250
Copper production, tons	51,574	147,043	†294,423
Raw silk, imported, pounds	4,209,015	8,310,548	15,270,353
India rubber, imported, lbs.	21,646 320	41,547,680	55,010,571
Manufacturers' materials, imported	237,778,910	312,915,815	480,828,386
Exports of manufactures	134,228,083	158,023,118	407,526,159
Total imports	723,180,914	866,400,922	1,025,719,237
Total exports	823,839,402	847,665,194	1,420,141,679
Excess of exports over imports	$100,658,488	§$18,735,728	$394,422,442

*1882. †1902. ‡1887. §Excess of imports.

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

THE Union League Club of New York ought to elect a few negro members as an evidence of good faith.—*The Memphis Commercial-Appeal.*

A MAN has been discovered in the United States with his heart on the right side. Why wasn't he chosen as an Alaskan arbitrator?—*The Montreal Star.*

THE President, it is announced, will "take things easily" for the next fortnight. South American republics better watch out.—*The New York Evening Telegram.*

A MAN in Missouri who held an office was discharged on account of writing a political novel. It must have been very true to life.—*The Baltimore American.*

THE true philosophy of a protective tariff at last appears in the outgivings of Mr. Chamberlain; he has called for a $50,000 campaign fund.—*The Detroit News-Tribune.*

A FINANCIER is a man who handles other people's money for them and lets them stand the losses if they lose and takes the profits if they win.—*The Birmingham Age-Herald.*

IT is only fair to the Supreme Court of Missouri to say that the number of convicts in the state penitentiary is still larger than the number running at large.—*The Kansas City Journal.*

SENATORS complain that it is difficult to read *The Congressional Record* on account of the small type. There are also other difficulties that may not occur to the Senators.—*The Washington Post.*

A NEWSPAPER devoted to reforms in China is to be published in New York. Judging by results, we infer that the newspapers devoted to reform in New York have been published in China, and delayed in transmission.—*The Washington Post.*

ASKED by an interviewer to give his views on the fiscal question, Mr Bryan (U. S. A.) answered: "The English must on a question of this sort come to their own decision." This is a little unkind, when he might so easily have decided for us.—*Punch*, London.

THE situation between Russia and Japan reminds one of the story of the little boy who, sitting with his little sister on a very short bench, deferentially observed: "I think there would be more room on this bench for me, Mary, if one of us was to get off."—*The Washington Times.*

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LETTERS AND ART.

IS ENGLISH BECOMING CORRUPT?

IN almost every period of English literature there have been writers who complained, each for his day, that the English tongue was being debased. Dean Swift is one of the most eminent of such writers. With him the desire for what he deemed the purity of the language is said to have amounted "almost to a passion." Walter Savage Landor is another famous writer who devoted no little thought and attention to the same question. Other names may readily be recalled in this connection. "If we take for authority the contemporary opinion of successive periods," says Prof. Thomas R. Lounsbury, of Yale University, "there is no escape from the conclusion that, for the past two hundred years at least, our tongue has been steadily deteriorating." Excellent reasons exist, however, as the professor goes on to point out (in *Harper's Magazine*, January), for rejecting such testimony. We quote:

"Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as a language becoming corrupt. It is an instrument which will be just what those who use it choose to make it. The words that constitute it have no real significance of their own. It is the meaning which men put into them that gives them all the efficacy they possess. Language does nothing more than reflect the character and the characteristics of those who speak it. It mirrors their thoughts and feelings, their passions and prejudices, their hopes and aspirations, their aims, whether high or low. In the mouth of the bombastic it will be inflated; in the mouth of the illiterate it will be full of vulgarisms; in the mouth of the precise it will be formal and pedantic. If, therefore, those who employ it as the medium of conveying their ideas lose all sense of what is vigorous in action and of what is earnest in belief, all appreciation of what is pure in taste and of what is lofty in conduct, if, in fine, they become intellectually coarse and morally corrupt, the speech they use may be relied upon to share in their degradation. Never was there a more ridiculous reversal of the actual order of events than that contained in Landor's assertion that 'no nation hath long survived the decrepitude of its language.'"

Then, again, the history of language is to a large extent "the history of corruptions—using that term in the sense in which it is constantly employed by those who are stigmatizing by it the new words and phrases and constructions to which they take exception." Furthermore:

"Every one of us to-day is employing expressions which either outrage the rules of strict grammar, or disregard the principles of analogy, or belong by their origin to what we now deem the worst sort of vulgarisms. These so-called corruptions are found everywhere in the vocabulary, and in nearly all the parts of speech. Words are spelled and pronounced in utter defiance of their derivation. Letters have been added to them as a result of slovenly pronunciation. On the other hand, they have been deprived in the same way of letters, and even syllables, to which they are entitled, and the full proper form has in some instances been replaced by a mere fragment of the original. Plurals of nouns have become singulars, and singulars in turn have become plurals. Yet a return to what is the theoretically correct usage would seem like a return to barbarism. Any attempt of that nature would be sure to be denounced as an assault upon the purity of the tongue. Even if permitted in any given case, it would produce upon most of us the effect of something peculiarly grotesque."

Professor Lounsbury proceeds to illustrate his meaning with definite examples. In the case of the neuter pronoun *it*, an initial *h* has been dropped. The only difference between *it* and *'ouse* and *'ead* is that "in the instance of the one we have got used and, therefore, attached to the corrupted form, and the two others we regard with distinct aversion." The accusative of *you* is *ye*. Hence our use of the former word is often entirely ungrammatical, from the purist point of view. *Held* for *holden*, *sat* for *sitten*, *stood* for *stonden*, are characterized as "corruptions of a peculiarly atrocious character." The word *mob* is another instance of corrupt usage being nothing but a fragment of the full Latin original *mobile vulgus*—"the fickle common people." Such a word has no better lineage than *pants* or *gents*. Not only do educated people use corrupt forms of the very kind which they denounce in the uneducated, but in some cases they even "employ what is really a corrupt form, leaving the one strictly correct to the illiterate." The word *again* was originally both adverb and preposition. Consequently, the vernacular, "He fought *agin* him," is actually purer speech than that which has taken its place. Words ending in *-st*, such as *against*, *amidst*, *amongst*, are corrupt, and are in the same etymological ranking as *wonst* or *wunst*, a vulgarism occasionally heard. We quote in conclusion:

"Whichever way we look we light upon corruptions which usage has made familiar and custom has made correct. The lesson such a survey enforces is important; but it must not be misunderstood. It does not release any man from striving to make his own usage conform to the best usage, so far as he is able to ascertain it. It does not deter him from doing all in his power to prevent the introduction and spread of words and meanings and locutions which he deems objectionable on the score of inadequacy or impropriety. But it does teach him the folly of the belief that the ruin of the language is impending because he can not have his way as to what it should accept or reject. The final decision as to propriety of usage rests not with individuals—neither with men of letters, however eminent, nor with scholars, however learned. It is in the hands of the whole body of the cultivated users of speech. They have an unerring instinct as to its necessities. They are a great deal wiser than any of their self-constituted advisers, however prominent. Fortunately, too, they have the ability to carry their wishes into effect."

THE COMING GENERATION OF WESTERN SCHOLARS.

DR. E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS, ex-president of Brown University and present chancellor of the University of Nebraska, has been making some comparisons between Eastern and Western college students in a way that is rather derogatory to the former. His general conclusion, based upon his contact with both classes of students, seems to be that Eastern college boys are more versatile and "finished," but that Western scholars have more of the solid qualities that go to make real character and mentality. He writes (in the New York *Independent*, December 10):

"If the Western college student is in culture scarcely the peer of his Eastern contemporary, he quite balances the account by superior mental power—I am, of course, speaking of the usual or average case—and by greater industry. Western youth can boast as good blood and ancestry as Eastern. The best immigrants to the United States have settled in the West, and their numerous children and grandchildren attending universities are among our most promising students. Western men and women put forth effort more naturally than the scions of families who have been well-to-do for generations. They possess the will for it, and also the strong physique. Never have I seen in the East, save in professional and graduate schools, such desperate and unremitting application to study as characterizes the mass of students in the prairie States.

"Western students generally display a veritably insatiable hunger for higher education. In them survives the spirit of their pioneer fathers, who, before they had places to lay their heads, taxed themselves to build schools and equip universities. Western students attend college to learn rather than to be taught. They average to study many more hours a day than Eastern. The typical college idler is never seen here. With eagerness for knowledge the Western student combines a zeal and a power for hard work seldom if ever witnessed in Eastern institutions.

"The outside 'seminar,' to cram men for 'exams,' reducing the necessity of study to a minimum, and turning into a farce so much undergraduate 'work' at the oldest of our universities, the West has not adopted.

"This assiduity in mental toil—often under the greatest obstacles—is an invaluable discipline, not only intellectual, but moral, tending to form and settle a young man's character as desultory study could not possibly do. It is not astonishing, then, that the Western collegian should display not merely much the greater power of

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concentration, but also the more earnestness morally. This shows itself as well in his general as in his collegiate life. The moral weight of the average university student is among the things that have most impressed me in my experience West.

"Native ability, enthusiasm for knowledge, coupled with the power for study which their strong physiques impart, and their readier submissiveness to discipline, all attested by the goodly number of fellowships which Western men and women hold in Eastern graduate schools, assure the coming generation of Western scholars a prominent place in American mental life. These are some of the reasons why, as a New England college professor (not a professor of rhetoric) has put it, to continue as our chief purveyor of highest educational products 'the East has got to get onto her job.'"

INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

THE unveiling of a new bust of George William Curtis and its formal presentation to the New York Public Library last month have served to recall the salient points in an eminent literary career and in a leadership of public opinion which is declared by Henry Mills Alden, Mr. Curtis's successor as the editor of *Harper's Magazine*, to have been "unparalleled in our history." Mr. Alden contributes a brief appreciation of his friend to *Harper's Weekly* (December 26), from which we quote as follows:

THE NEW BRONZE BUST OF GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, BY J. Q. A. WARD.
Courtesy of *Harper's Weekly*.

"Mr. Curtis was the most unforgetable man I ever knew. In 1863 he became the political editor of *Harper's Weekly*, to which for some years he had been contributing 'The Lounger.' Already for ten years he had been known to the readers of *Harper's Magazine* as the occupant of the 'Editor's Easy Chair.' The association with these two periodicals, in these so different positions, was continued to the year of his death, 1892. He lived two lives. One was that which he set out to live when, after his residence at Brook Farm, and later at Concord, he went to Europe and the East at the age of twenty-two, meeting Thackeray in London and the Brownings in Venice, and on the Nile the haunting mystery of an older world. What that life might have yielded to American literature is dimly foreshadowed in the books he wrote after his return, in the early fifties—the Nile pictures of the young dreamer; the very wide-awake but genial satires of American social life, whose center was then at Saratoga; and the tender and beautiful romance of 'Prue and I.' The maturer intimations of his possible literary achievement were given during nearly forty years in the 'Easy Chair'—the most delightful monthly *causerie* of personal reminiscence, of art criticism (including music and the drama), and of comment on men and women and books, ever written.

"But when I first knew Mr. Curtis he had entered upon that other life which found expression in his political editorials and public addresses—a life of public service. He had buckled on his armor. In his view 'public spirit is the mainspring of the republic,' and for the generation succeeding that of Webster he was preeminently the expression of that spirit and its leader. His publishers and associates regarded him as their knight, with the proud and fond feeling of appropriation, but his knighthood transcended all ownership, and was devoted to the victory of a principle at the time when that principle was meeting its crucial test—the principle of public justice.

"His personal presence to those who met him frequently in the very atmosphere of his work seemed immune to familiarity. No one was ever gentler or more affable to all men or more cordial and sympathetic in friendly intercourse. It was not the feeling of distance that impresssed one, but rather that of intimate appeal—something closer than familiarity, yet having in it some strangeness of surprise. His ordinary expression had become an art, in vibrancy and form. He did not talk like a book, yet his speech impressed you very much in the same way as we imagine his talk about Robert Burns impressed the Scotchmen who listened to him when that poet's statue was unveiled in Central Park. He did not wear his knighthood in stiff and formal fashion, but you felt its inspiration, as if you listened to martial music. He was our greatest master of the art of speech, in private and in public discourse. 'How was it done?' he asked, concerning the charm wrought by Wendell Phillips upon his hearers, and his answer is applicable to the still greater charm of his own speech: 'Ah! how did Mozart do it, how Raffaelle? The secret of the rose's sweetness, of the bird's ecstasy, of the sunset's glory—that is the secret of genius and of eloquence.' He was as easily the master of every form of personal expression, having the readiness, the versatility, and the debonair grace of an Admirable Crichton, without Admirable Crichton's vanity and self-conceit. What he improvised was as impressive as what he premeditated, and more surprising. In his graciousness was no condescension. He needed not to unbend, for, whatever the tension, he had the elasticity of a Damascus blade, always flexible and always effective.

"I dwell upon the manner of the man rather than upon his achievement. This was conspicuous to all—that could be appreciated only by those who personally knew him. The form was of the spirit, and became the rhythmic and flexile restraint of his speech and action, so that the beauty of his discourse was never spoiled by too much stress or ornament, and the earnestness of his lifework was never dissipated in caprice, strenuosity, or fanaticism.

"It is especially fitting that the bust of Mr. Curtis is to have its enshrinement in the New York Public Library—if only that it may lead the frequenters of that library to read his great speeches, which are, as he said of Burke's, 'not only historical events, but splendid possessions of literature.' The young American will find in these speeches not only the exemplar of an ideal eloquence and of a 'sublime scholarship' which, like that of John Milton, 'began in literature and ended in life,' but the essential substance of his country's history and the meaning of that history in the organization of human liberty."

PRESENT CONDITION OF MUSIC.

THERE was a time when Italy held the musical supremacy of the world. Later, it passed into the keeping of Germany. At the beginning of the twentieth century another change seems to be imminent. Prof. Felix Borowski, of the Chicago Musical College, who calls attention to these facts in an article in *The World To-day* (Chicago, December), goes on to say:

"At the birth of the nineteenth century Beethoven and Haydn were at the zenith of their powers, and Schubert was commencing a career of artistic glory. Before Beethoven's death there had been born Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Wagner. A comparison between that period and this demonstrates that, musically speaking, there are no giants in these days, and even the most remarkable living composers, such as Grieg or Dvorak, are not Germans. Of living German musicians the one most discussed is undoubtedly Richard Strauss. This young master's claim to fame is based largely upon his orchestral 'tone poems,' altho he has written much in other departments of composition. That his orchestral works are destined to immortality is seriously to be doubted. These compositions depend for their effect not so much upon what is said in them as in the manner of saying it. That Strauss is in possession of a wonderful mastery over the technicalities of his art is undeniable. But the greatness of a work must not be looked for in its complexity or the ingenuity of its coloring. Beauty of sound must always be the first consideration, and beauty is not an ever-present constituent of Strauss's works."

Remarking that "in the domain of chamber music Germany still occupies the high place which has been hers since Beethoven," Professor Borowski proceeds to a consideration of musical condi-

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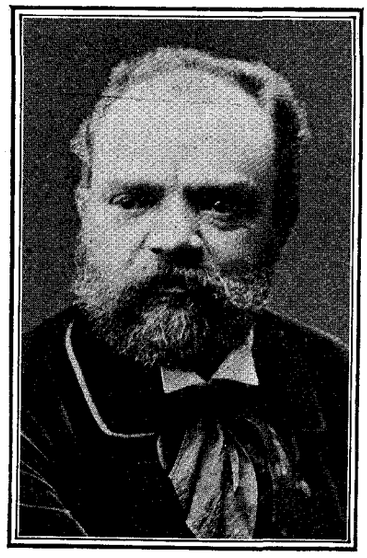
EDWARD MACDOWELL,
America's foremost composer. Professor of Music at Columbia University.

tions in England. "There are two or three British composers," he declares, "who have climbed high in the estimation of the musical world, and there is at least one, Richard Elgar, whose works have placed him in the front rank of the world's masters." Professor Borowski continues:

"It is only in the nature of things that Elgar's *chef-d'œuvre* should be an oratorio, since the oratorio is the natural heritage of every music-loving Anglo-Saxon. 'The Dream of St. Gerontius' is, however, not an oratorio of the stereotyped pattern. It is dramatic, intense, full of a human pathos which at times is extremely moving. The mastery of technical difficulties which is demonstrated in the works of Elgar is shared by many musicians who are fellow countrymen of the composer of 'Gerontius.' Counterpoint has long been the fetish of the British composer. Technical correctness, rather than inspiration, has too often been the purpose of his striving. But with the advent of the younger men a new order of things is developing and the importance of musical Britain would seem to loom large among the possibilities of the not very distant future.

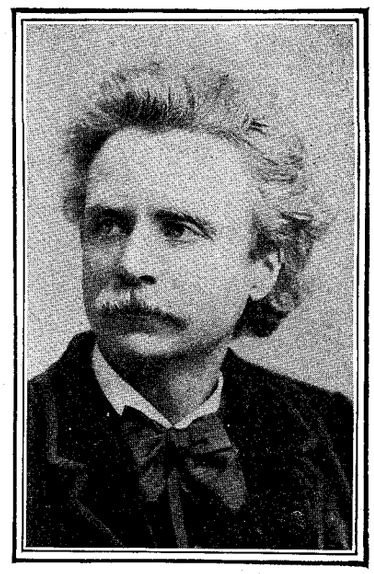
"Of the more conservative musicians, those who play the most prominent part in British art may be said to be Sirs Hubert Parry, Villiers Stanford, and Alexander Mackenzie."



ANTON DVORAK,
"Perhaps the greatest living composer."

France has made but slight contribution to the music of our times, and contains but two composers of the first rank—Jules Massenet and Camille Saint-Saëns. Italy, on the other hand, has been undergoing something of a musical renaissance. To quote again:

"The passionate intensity of Pietro Mascagni's 'Cavalleria Rusticana' brought forth the enthusiastic admiration of the whole musical world. That Mascagni failed to grasp the whole significance of his success is to be discovered in the numerous failures which succeeded his first opera. But other Italians profited by his prosperity no less than by his adversity. The public craved for excitement; there were opera-writers willing and ready to provide it. Leoncavallo came out with his 'Pagliacci,' the success of which should alone have convinced Mascagni that in composing idyllic scenes, such as 'L'Amico Fritz,' he was following a track which could lead only to the arid wastes of disappointment and failure. Since 'Pagliacci' many Italian composers have endeavored to repeat the early successes. It is, however, evident that the public is weary of such overstrenuous productions as the Italians offer it. Of the young Italians who started out with roseate hopes of immortality, only Puccini, the composer of 'Tosca' and 'La Boheme,' has succeeded in holding the interested attention of the musical public."

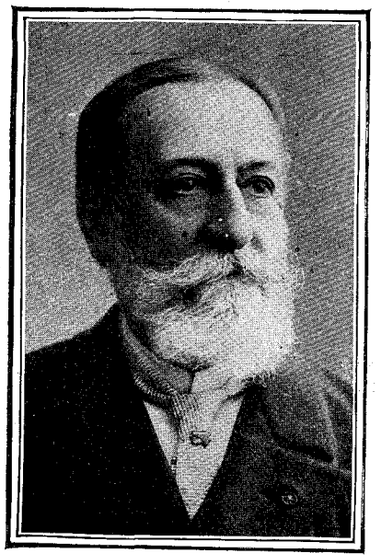


EDWARD GRIEG,
Whose Norwegian melodies are known throughout the world.

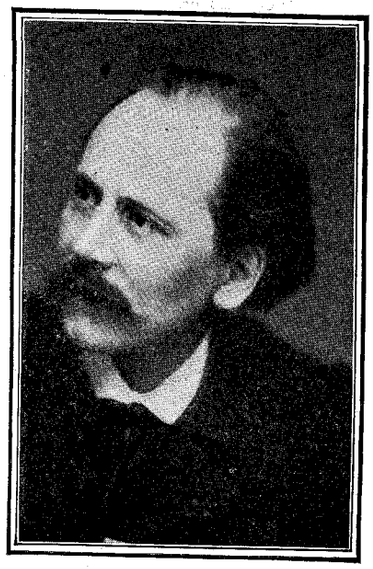
Perhaps the freshest fields of musical productivity, continues Professor Borowski, have been developed by Scandinavian and Slavonic composers. In this connection he cites Edward Grieg, whose "unconventionality of harmony" and "never-failing melodiousness" have won appreciation throughout the world. Next we are reminded of Anton Dvorak, of Bohemia, "perhaps the greatest living composer." Professor Borowski turns to American music last of all:

"Two native composers, Macdowell and Parker, have accomplished much in dissipating the notion prevalent abroad that the possible supremacy of America in art is incompatible with the supremacy in commerce. Parker's successes have been won principally in England and in choral composition. Macdowell, who is undoubtedly the most gifted of American writers, has made his influence cover a wider field. There is in his work every evidence that he has something to say and an unconventional way of saying it. Mr. Macdowell has lately been demonstrating to European critics the possibilities of American music as represented in his own creative efforts. The music-loving community of Germany and Britain have not failed to appreciate these possibilities, and the American school will henceforth figure more prominently in European art."

In summing up the tendencies of modern music, Professor Borowski declares that "increasing freedom of form and the association of music with a program are the two most obvious factors in our present



CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS,
French composer; organist; pianist.



JULES MASSENET,
French Operatic composer.

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stage of development." "From the ideas and practises of the classicists," he concludes, "we are gradually drifting away. Even the revolutionary art of such moderns as Liszt and Berlioz is beginning to sound old-fashioned. What the future will bring forth it were difficult to predict with certainty, but it is unquestionable that there are still rich fields of musical territory unexplored."

THE SOURCES OF THE BALZAC NOVELS.

READERS of Balzac's novels will doubtless be interested to know that the great French novelist obtained no small part of his literary inspiration from English and American sources. During one period of his life Balzac's favorite novels were "Clarissa Harlowe" and "The Vicar of Wakefield," and he admitted having been profoundly influenced by the authors of these books, Samuel Richardson and Oliver Goldsmith, as well as by Laurence Sterne, William Godwin, Sir Walter Scott, and Fenimore Cooper. Of Scott's "Kenilworth" he wrote to his sister, "It is the most beautiful thing in the world"; and he admired Cooper's novels to the extent of wishing to break away from civilization and to plunge into American solitudes! The influences which shaped Balzac's early literary development, however, were of a different kind. M. André Le Breton, who writes exhaustively (in *La Revue de Paris*) on the origins of the Balzac novels, thinks that Balzac's first inspiration came from the so-called "novel of the people," which dates from the revolution, or the time when France became a democracy. The best-known exponents of this school of popular fiction were Pigault-Lebrun and Ducray-Diminil. M. Le Breton says of them: "These two novelists of the people are separated by a real, tho not profound, difference. Neither gives us any keen studies of manners or customs; they show no insight into character, no taste, no delicacy of spirit or of style. They wrote not for the cultured few, but for the *vulgus profanus*, the illiterate general public." After Pigault-Lebrun and Ducray-Diminil came Guilbert de Pixérécourt, a famous melodramatist, whose influence is apparent in Balzac's early work. These three writers furnished native foundations which were soon destined to be broadened by foreign influences. The French imagination was too *blasé* and stoical to satisfy Balzac's growing taste for the "refinements of atrocity." We quote again:

"This taste for atrocity was not in itself a new thing. It was all over Europe in the years before 1850, in France in l'Abbé Prévost and Crebillon *père*, in England in George Lillo and Richardson, in Germany in Bürger and other poets and balladists. Already the equilibrium of the seventeenth century was disturbed, already there was something unsound in the spirit of humanity. This morbidness reached its culmination, at the close of the eighteenth century, in the cataclysm of the French Revolution. Then there appeared in England Anne Radcliffe, and, accompanying her, Lewis and Maturin and the school they founded, the school of nightmare, which was to profoundly affect the novel of the people."

The history of this school has never been written; even Taine has not attempted it in his "English Literature." And yet, says M. Le Breton, the writer who does treat of it will be astonished to see how much romanticism owes to Mrs. Radcliffe, to Lewis, and to Maturin. "He will be surprised to note this influence in Hoffman as well as in Walter Scott, in Mérimée as well as in Nodier, in George Sand as in Victor Hugo, and he will see that three-quarters of the time, when our romantic writers believe they are imitating Shakespeare or Walter Scott, it is really Anne Radcliffe, Lewis, or Maturin they are following."

Balzac's admiration for the English novelists of the eighteenth century and for Fenimore Cooper has already been mentioned. For the author of "Tristram Shandy" he professed an "almost idolatrous love"; and "The Last of the Mohicans" actually "tore from him roars of pleasure." "Oh," he sighed, in a letter in 1830, "to live the life of a Mohican, to run upon the crest of rocks, to plunge into the sea, to breathe in the air and sunlight! Oh, how well I understand the savage, the adventurer, the strenuous life! Life ought to mean courage, good guns, the art of navigation, and hatred of mankind." On another occasion he declared the character of Leather Stocking "simply sublime," and said that, in his opinion, Cooper was the only author worthy of being ranked with Scott. He added: "I do not know if the works of Scott furnish a single creation as grand as that of the hero of the savannahs and forests. The descriptions of Cooper should be studied by all literary landscape-artists. All the secrets of the art are there. But Cooper is inferior to Walter Scott in his humor, his secondary personages, and in dramatic action. One is the historian of nature, the other of humanity."

The influence of Scott upon Balzac is treated by M. Le Breton in the following paragraph:

"Far be it from us to say that he owed to Scott his genius and his masterpieces. Balzac does owe to his master the lessons in technique, the sense of objective reality, and doubtless also some notion of psychology and analysis. But Walter Scott did not point out his way—in fact, his influence very nearly caused him to miss it. One shudders at the very thought that Balzac, in 1828 or 1829, had intended to write, instead of the 'Comédie Humaine,' a series of historical novels of French manners from the Middle Ages up to his own time. . . . This was not his province, and whatever the path that led from 'The Heiress of Birague' to 'The Chouans,' yet, after having written the latter work, he was still far from prepared to write 'Eugénie Grandet' or 'Père Goriot.' He still had to take a decisive step forward. He was not only in need of becoming perfected in the arts of composition and description, which he had learned from Walter Scott; he had yet to break away from Walter Scott himself, to disengage himself from the historical novel, to find in the present his colors, his subjects, and his models. Balzac took a decisive step when he turned to modernism; and until he had firmly taken that position, devoting his talents to the frank observation and representation of his own land and time, Balzac was not really himself."

In the last works of Balzac may be detected the influence of Gall, the physiognomist, of Lavater, the phrenologist, of Stendhal, Jean Scribe, Mérimée, Meunier, and others. But he "surpassed them all." When "Gobseck" appeared, in 1830, he was beginning to find his own individuality. "In 1833 the period of groping was ended, and before him rose the 'Comédie Humaine,' as vast as the cathedral of Bruges!"—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

FRESH AIR AS A PREVENTIVE OF DISEASE.

THE gospel of fresh air is continually being preached by physicians, but it is yet far from general acceptance. People are ready enough to live in the open air in warm weather; but with the thermometer at zero the proposition is regarded in quite a different light. In a leading article in *Good Health* (December), Dr. J. H. Kellogg tells us that fresh air is no less beneficial for being at a low temperature. It is even better, he says, when cold; and he proceeds to tell the reason thus:

"Cold, fresh air has special value because it stimulates the organs and all the functions of the body; it quickens the heart to the greatest activity, and increases the number of red corpuscles in the blood. Cold air also contains more oxygen to the cubic inch than does warm air. The volume of air is reduced one-five-hundredth part for each degree of reduction in temperature. Consider the difference between a hot summer day with a temperature of 100° and a winter day at 30°. Even a moderately cold winter day marks a difference of 70°. So the air has been reduced one-seventh of its volume, and in six breaths of cold air one gets as much oxygen as he would in seven breaths of warm air. Hence the body takes in one-seventh more oxygen in cold weather than in warm weather. This increased amount of oxygen taken into the body is a matter of great consequence. This is why one feels better in cold than in warm air. A brisk walk on a cold, crisp winter morning creates a splendid appetite for breakfast, for the same reason that the fire burns brighter on a cold winter night. When the fire burns with a particularly bright glow, people are wont to say: 'Winter is coming. See how bright the fire burns!' This is due to the increased amount of oxygen in the air. The fire burns brighter and faster because it has one-seventh more fuel supplied.

"So it is with the body—the vital fires burn brighter in cold weather. The whole tide of life moves with greater activity. . . . Cold air aids in the elimination of the poisonous matters which are all the time forming within the body. When oxygen is not plentiful enough to make the vital fires burn sufficiently to consume the fuel and waste of the body, then much of the waste material is left behind in the form of imperfectly burned substances, which may be called cinders of the body. Uric acid is cinders.

"As the result of sedentary habits, there is not sufficient oxygen taken into the lungs. The lungs do not expand as they ought to, so enough air is not taken in. Then the overheated air is diluted, and one must breathe seven times to get as much oxygen as he would get in breathing six times out of doors, and so, breathing only imperfectly and slowly, because he is not active, the amount of oxygen taken into the body is insufficient. One exercising vigorously in the cold air out of doors breathes more rapidly, obtains a larger supply of oxygen, and the rubbish of the body—the uric-acid cinders—is burned up, and the whole system is kept clear.

"This is why cold air is so beneficial to nervous people. The oxygen in the air burns up the poisons which irritate the nerves, and the person is relieved.

"When one is tired, he gets rest quicker by breathing fresh, cold air; because weariness and exhaustion are due simply to an accumulation of poisons and other waste matters generated by work and retained in the body, and these are burned up by the oxygen taken in through cold air.

"The cold-air cure is coming to be recognized as the most effective for invalids. At Davos, up among the Alps Mountains, there is an establishment for cold-air treatment. Each patient is expected to take a treatment three times daily consisting in lying out-doors from half an hour to an hour, according to his strength. Every one is compelled to take the treatment during the night also, for the windows are never allowed to be closed in that establishment, and yet the winters are severe. But with plenty of warm coverings, and a hood over the head and ears, the patients can bid defiance to Jack Frost while they inhale the life-giving oxygen of the cold, fresh air. This institution is becoming world-famous for the cure of consumption. Twenty years ago this disease was considered incurable, but it is now regarded as one of the most curable of chronic diseases when taken in the early stage. Fully one-half of the patients suffering with tuberculosis, when placed in out-of-door hospitals, make a satisfactory recovery. It is reasonable, therefore, to suppose that if fresh air will cure the disease, it is likewise a preventive of it.

"Many people delude themselves into the belief that an accumulation of garments will prevent their taking cold. . . . Artificial clothing is necessary, but any more than is needed is objectionable.

"Out-of-door exercise and fresh air are most effectual means, not only of creating an appetite, but of encouraging assimilation. Food may be taken into the stomach without being taken into the blood; and after it gets into the blood, it may be circulated and yet not be utilized by assimilation. Many people say: 'I have a good appetite. I eat heartily, but I don't gain in flesh.' This is because the food is not well assimilated. Assimilation is the process by which food materials are transformed into living, active, thinking, moving substance. Cold air, sunshine, and exercise are among the most effective means of stimulating this process of assimilation. Appetite is simply a demand for new material. It says, 'The body has suffered loss, and that loss must be replaced.'

"It is important, too, that one have plenty of fresh, cool air at night when sleeping. If one sleeps in a warm room, he will wake in the morning unrefreshed and feeling miserable. If afraid of taking cold, raise the window and lie so that the air will blow on the face, protecting the back of the head and the ears, if necessary."

A NEW DEPARTURE IN EXPERIMENTATION.

THE history of science is full of cases where eminent experimenters have obtained opposite results. In most of these instances a controversy, sometimes acrimonious, has been the result, partizans have flocked to the banners of both disputants, and the real facts have not been established for years, and then generally by disinterested persons. The most obvious way of ascertaining the truth, if the truth, and not personal fame, is really what the experimenters are after, would evidently be for them to get together, compare their methods of experimentation and work out the problem in common. That this has just been done in the case of a notable problem in physics marks an epoch in the history of experimental science. The scientific men who have thus settled their differences by joint experimentation are M. Victor Cremieu, a French physicist, and M. H. Pender, an American. The question involved is one that has bothered physicists for more than a quarter of a century. Electrical theory requires that a charged object in motion shall affect a magnetic needle just as an electric current does. Professor Rowland, of Johns Hopkins, one of the foremost of American scientific men, in a series of experiments that has become classic, proved satisfactorily, as he thought, the truth of this thesis. But not all of those who sought to verify his work were able to do so, and finally Mr. Cremieu and Mr. Pender, one in France, the other in America, obtained directly contradictory results from almost exactly the same form of the experiment. What finally occurred is related by Cremieu and Pender in a paper published in *The Physical Review* (December). They say:

"In the hope of reconciling the contradictory results obtained by the various experimenters on this question of fundamental importance, M. H. Poincaré took the initiative in the fall of 1902 to bring about a collaboration between two of the experimenters whose results have invariably been in contradiction one to the other. In accordance with the suggestion of Lord Kelvin, Paris was chosen as the most favorable place for these joint experiments, and M. E. Bouty gladly put at the disposal of the two investigators his laboratory at the Sorbonne.

"Accordingly, invited by Messrs. Poincaré and Bouty in the name of the University of Paris, Mr. H. Pender, whose experiments have invariably given positive results, went to Paris in January, 1903, to work in collaboration with M. V. Cremieu, whose experiments have always been of a negative character. The Johns Hopkins University put at Pender's disposal all the apparatus necessary, and obtained from the Carnegie Institution the funds necessary to defray the expenses of the journey. The expenses of the actual experimenting were met by the Institut de France."

Through the aid, advice, and criticism of Messrs. Poincaré and

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Bouty, the authors were able to realize in three months an almost complete program of very delicate experiments, and were not once delayed by lack of apparatus or of any physical means whatever. The explanation of methods and results given by them is, of course, largely technical. Suffice it to say, that the contentions of the Americans were practically established, the negative results of M. Cremieu being shown to be due to a modification of his apparatus that no physicist would have expected to produce such an effect. The precedent established by these two experimenters will doubtless be followed and the results will be of far-reaching value.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FOOTBALL.

"THE ethics of football," writes Prof. G. T. W. Patrick in *The American Journal of Psychology*, "is a well-worn theme; not so its psychology." A pessimistic writer in *The Contemporary Review* finds the English people on the verge of ethical pandemonium owing to the debasing influence of football. But a writer in *The Forum* sees in football a humanizing and elevating agency, "a school of morals and manners." Professor Patrick proposes to lay aside, for the moment, the moral question involved and to try, instead, to discover the motives which draw the audience to the game; to study the psychology of football from the point of view of the spectator. The fascination of the game is not, he is convinced, to be explained by the rivalry in it, or by an interest in fads, since the game has flourished for centuries. "Evidently there is some great force, psychological, or sociological, at work here which science has not yet investigated." To discover this force, we may have recourse to theories of play The surplus energy theory of play, elaborated by the late Herbert Spencer, and the theory that makes play an instinctive preparation for later work (the Groos theory) are both passed over as inadequate. "It is only from the standpoint of anthropology," he says, "that the plays of children or the sports of men can be understood. The comparison of plays with the activities of primitive men throws a flood of light at once on the whole subject."

The connection of kite-flying with primitive religious ceremonies, of counting-out games with sorcery, of tag with pursuit and capture, are given as instances of plays which hark back to primitive times. Furthermore, evidence does not seem to be lacking for the hypothesis that adult play as well as the play of children is "reversionary, resembling the serious activities of earlier times." To quote further:

"We still practise the same serious labors of our primitive ancestors, but we call them sports. We recall, first, that some form of *outing*, be it hunting, fishing, camping, or boating, is the most common kind of sport and affords the most satisfying recreation. The animal cult of our forefathers is seen in many forms in the sports of to-day, as in horse-racing, hunting with horses or dogs, devotion to luxurious stables, kennels, or lofts, in horse-shows, dog-shows, cat-shows, pigeon-shows, or in the mere keeping of domestic pets for pleasure."

The anthropological theory is found conveniently to cover football also from the standpoint of the spectator:

"In this game more than in any other, except those of the Roman amphitheater and their modern representatives, there is reversion to aboriginal manners, and hence a more complete relapse into latent habits, more perfect rest of the higher brain-centers, more thoroughgoing rest and recreation. The game is more brutal—that is, more primitive—than others. The scene before us is the old familiar scene of ages past. The lively chase for goals, as for cover, the rude physical shock of the heavy opposing teams, and the scrimmage-like, *mêlée* character of the collisions awaken our deep-seated slumbering instincts, permit us to revel for a time in these long-restricted impulses, relieve completely the strain of the will, and so serve all the conditions of recreation."

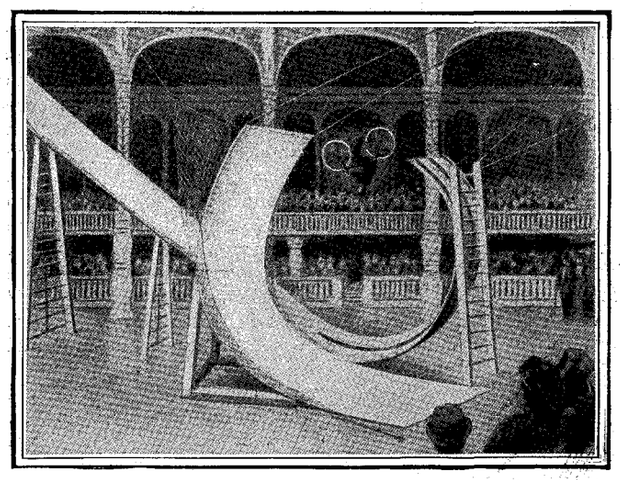
In conclusion the author observes:

"The psychology of football and similar sports does not teach that in these games there is a return to savagery. There is a momentary return, in the form of sport, to the serious manners of former days in order that in the serious affairs of to-day these manners may be the more completely left behind."

"LOOPING THE LOOP" IN SPACE.

WHEN the feat of "looping the loop" on a bicycle was first performed, it was regarded as marking the limit of possibility in this direction. But it has now been excelled in Paris, where at two different theaters, the Casino and the Folies-Bergère, cyclists are using a "loop" whose upper part is removed, so that they must make a leap through the air while riding their wheels, head downward. The philosophy of the feat is thus explained by M. W. Drancourt in *La Nature* (Paris):

"'Looping the loop in space' takes precedence both of ordinary 'looping,' on whose apparatus it has improved, and of 'the human



"LOOPING THE LOOP" IN SPACE.

arrow,' since the cyclist also executes a leap in space, but a more dangerous one, since it is done head downward.

"The apparatus for looping the loop in space is like that for the ordinary feat, except that the top is wanting. The looper descends at full speed an incline about 100 feet long at 45 degrees, mounts the ascending part of the 'loop' and then, still carried forward by his momentum, crosses, at the top of the 'loop,' an empty space of about five yards, head downward, until, striking the second part of the track, the cycle travels around the descending side of the 'loop' and is stopped at its exit by the cords provided for that purpose.

"This feat seems to be performed contrary to all the laws of physics, and it may be asked why the bicycle and its rider are not carried away in their aerial flight by centrifugal force, and how the wheels are able to strike the second section of the path exactly. A closer examination of the device (see the accompanying illustration) enables us to see how the feat is possible. In fact, the 'loop' in this case is not a perfect circle whose upper part has been cut out; the section of the track on which the cyclist ascends forms a circular arc whose chord is relatively small; this arc ends in a curve that turns quite sharply toward the interior of the 'loop.' On the other hand, the section of the track that receives the cyclist after his leap is formed of a circular arc of large opening, whose upper end overlaps that of the first section by a yard or more; this second section is also twice as long as the first. We see easily what takes place; when the looper arrives at great speed at the end of the ascending section of the 'loop' he tends, under the action of gravity and of the sharp curvature, to be precipitated toward the center. On the contrary, the centrifugal force tends to throw him outward. Now the apparatus has been so constructed that these two tendencies exactly balance and the cyclist is able to make a leap of about five yards in an approximately horizontal line.

"However this may be, and, in spite of all the safeguards with which it is surrounded, this feat requires of those who accomplish it . . . much address and coolness. The most delicate part is cer-

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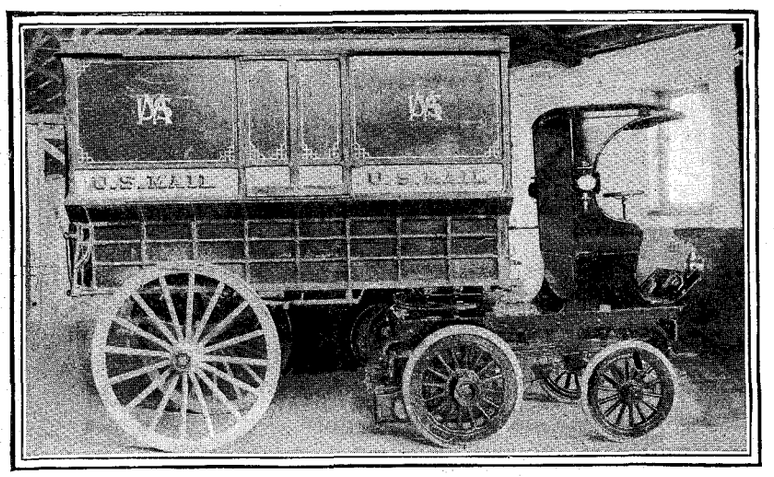
tainly the moment when the bicycle, after the leap, strikes the second section of the 'loop.' There is then a very violent shock, and the 'looper' must possess great skill to keep his machine in the right direction, as the slightest deviation would throw the cyclist off the track. But two men are performing this feat nightly with a calmness and dexterity that win them merited applause."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HORSE.

AN automobile truck, which can be substituted for the front wheels and shafts of any heavy vehicle, converting it thereby into a motor-wagon, has been on trial in Philadelphia, where it has been in successful use in the mail service. Says a writer in *The Automobile:*

"As shown in the illustrations, the power-mechanism is mounted on four wheels, which carry the battery, motors, steering-mechanism, controllers, and driver's seat, the whole forming an independent power unit, like an electric locomotive, the only difference being that it is attached to the drawn vehicle by means of the usual king-bolt instead of by a coupling. In converting a horse-drawn vehicle to an automobile it is only necessary to remove the king-bolt, taking away the usual front wheels and shafts and substituting the tractor, replace the king-bolt, the upper half of the wagon turntable resting on the lower half of a turntable mounted on the tractor. The motors are each of five horse-power, chain-driving to the rear wheels, Renold's block chains being used. The battery includes forty Clark cells, and is of 265 ampere hour capacity. The battery and motors are designed to carry a considerable overload, when necessary, without injury. The controller is designed for four forward speeds, ranging from three to eighteen miles, and reverse. The wheels are of wood, 24 inches in diameter, fitted with solid rubber tires.



AUTOMOBILE TRUCK AS USED WITH MAIL-WAGON.
Courtesy of *Automobile* (New York).

"Double band-brakes, each 2½ inches wide, apply on 22-inch drums attached to the rear wheels. . . . . .

"The preliminary tests referred to . . . proved that one motor vehicle performed the services of two horses and wagons and two mail-collectors in the time consumed by one horse and wagon over one-half the trip. It was then estimated that seven automobile mail-vans could perform better service than twelve horse-drawn collecting-wagons, besides requiring the services of five less men."

New Devices for Electric Cooking.—The high cost of electric cooking has stimulated the ingenuity of inventors, some of whom have been trying to devise special apparatus that shall be economical. Two devices, invented by a Frenchman, M. Demare, are described in the *Revue Scientifique* (December 12). The first is a modification of the so-called Papin's digester. Says the writer:

"It has double walls and double bottom. . . . The latter contains carbon filaments to heat the vessel. That these filaments may not be burned out, the air is replaced by hydrogen, which has great convective power. This gas behaves like a perfect electric insulator that is at the same time a good conductor of heat. It transmits to the bottom of the vessel the heat energy given up to it by the filaments, almost as well as metal would do. The filaments are grouped in two series, so that the temperature in the vessel can be varied without useless expenditure of current.

"The second device is for heating liquids in any vessel whatever. It is a metal cylinder with wings. In the inside is arranged a carbon resistance surrounded by an atmosphere of hydrogen. The heat given out is entirely used, since the heating is from the center outward. If the vessel that holds the liquid is itself of double-walled glass, with the intervening space exhausted of air and silvered, liquids can be boiled therein more economically than by any other method."—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

THE LARGEST SHIP AFLOAT.

THIS is a title that is borne by any one vessel but a short time in these days of big things. *The Marine Review* tells us that the latest "largest ship" took the water a few days ago from the yard of Harland & Wolff, Belfast, for the White Star Line. This vessel, the *Baltic*, exceeds in tonnage even the *Celtic* and the *Cedric*, also built by Harland & Wolff for the same line, and is the largest, and in many respects the finest, vessel afloat. Its dimensions are: Length, 725 feet 9 inches; breadth, 75 feet; depth, 49 feet; gross tonnage, 24,000; cargo capacity, 28,000 tons; displacement at load-draft, 40,000 tons. Says the paper above named:

"The new vessel will have passenger accommodation on the same lines as the *Celtic* and the *Cedric*, but more commodious. The general arrangement is similar to these other vessels—a continuous shade-deck running fore and aft, with three tiers of deck-houses and two promenade-decks above. On the upper promenade-deck is the first-class smoking-room and library, and the two houses below contain the deck state-rooms. The first-class dining-saloon is on the upper deck, and all the first-class accommodation is amidships. Immediately abaft the first-class is the second-class accommodation, and also a comfortable smoking-room and library for this class. The third-class passengers are provided for abaft the second-class, and to a limited extent also at the fore end of the vessel. A great feature in this accommodation is the large number of state-rooms of two, three, and four berths, and the commodious and comfortable dining-rooms. There will be accommodation for nearly 3,000 passengers, besides quarters for a crew of about 350. The decorations will be artistic and the appointments handsome and luxurious. In addition to the ordinary state-rooms there are suites of bed-, sitting-, and bath-rooms, also single-berth state-rooms. As in the other large steamers of this type, one of the most notable features in the *Baltic* will be the grand dining-saloon, situated on the upper deck and extending the full width of the ship, 75 feet. It will contain seating accommodation for 370 people. The first-class smoking-room and library are also fine apartments, and the second-class public rooms are very comfortable. The heating and ventilating arrangements of the ship will be most complete, and the *Baltic* will be fitted with winches and other loading and discharging arrangements of the latest and most efficient type. There will be large refrigerating-chambers for the carriage of chilled beef. The *Baltic* will be fitted with engines of Harland & Wolff's quadruple-expansion type, about 13,000 indicated horse-power, and the speed will be about 16½ to 17 knots. The engines are arranged on the balanced principle, which practically does away with vibration. The twin-engines and twin-screws afford another element of safety to the ship and passengers. The *Baltic* entered the water with a dead-weight of 15,000 tons. She is to be ready for the early summer Atlantic service of the White Star Line.

"The *Baltic* will doubtless be 'the largest ship afloat' until the new Cunarders are ready, but will that be the end of the increase

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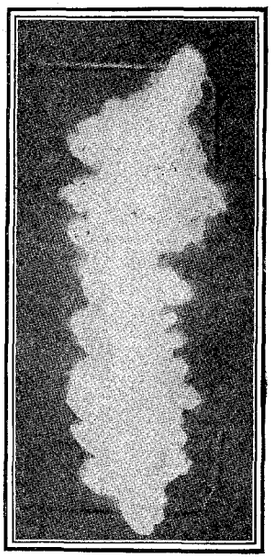
in the size of ocean steamers? When, in 1899, the *Oceanic* was launched with a tonnage of 17,274 and a length of 700 feet, many thought that the limit of dimensions had been reached. Within three years the *Oceanic* was put in the shade by the *Celtic* and *Cedric*, with tonnages of 20,904 and 20,980, and also by the German liner *Kaiser Wilhelm II.* of 20,010 tons. These are in turn eclipsed by the *Baltic*, with a tonnage of 24,000 and a length of 725 feet. The first *Baltic*, built for the White Star company in 1872, had a tonnage of only 3,880. Within the last ten years the average tonnage of steamers added to the British register has risen from 2,000 tons to upward of 3,000, and altho we had 1,300 fewer vessels last year than in 1901 our tonnage was over 2,147,000 more. Two-thirds of our total tonnage has been built during the past ten years, many vessels of older date having been sold to foreigners and replaced by steamers of the most modern type. While most of the new ships are swifter than the old, the chief aim now among the liners is not so much rapidity as comfort for all classes. The revolution now going on in ocean travel is very much like that which took place some years ago in land journeys. Shipping companies like railway companies have discovered that it is profitable to provide good accommodation for those who pay the lowest fares. Flyers there must be for the conveyance of mails and of passengers with whom time is urgent, but larger and slower steamers have their own uses, and it is evident that they have come to stay. The trouble is to find berthing accommodations for such monsters."

THE CAUSE OF THUNDER.

WE all know that thunder is the noise made by the lightning discharge, modified by conditions of distance and reflection. But in what way does the electrical discharge make the noise? Some recent experiments by Prof. John Trowbridge, of Harvard, show in a striking manner that the noise is largely due to the dissociation of water vapor, and they also demonstrate that the length of such discharges is greatly modified by the amount of moisture present in the clouds. Says Professor Trowbridge, in an account of his experiments contributed to *The Scientific American* (December 19):



THE ELECTRIC DISCHARGE BETWEEN WATER TERMINALS.

Courtesy of *Scientific American*.

"The experiments grew out of my long study of the spectrum of water vapor; and abandoning for the nonce the baffling study of the spectra of water vapor in glass and also quartz tubes, I resolved to study the spectrum produced by electrical discharges of great quantity in air saturated by moisture. In order to obtain such discharges, I used a storage-battery of twenty thousand cells to charge large glass condensers. I also had a transformer constructed which was excited by an alternating current of one hundred and ten volts. . . .

"At first sight it seems possible to study the spectrum of water vapor by causing electric sparks to pass from one surface of water to another—in other words, by employing water electrodes. It is, however, practically impossible to cause an electric spark of high electromotive force to leap from one surface of a liquid to another. For this reason it is rare that lightning strikes the surface of level water.

"I, therefore, having saturated two pieces of wood with distilled water, wrapped them with cotton-wool, which was also heavily saturated with distilled water. When such terminals were separated a distance of four inches, a torrent of extremely bright sparks leaped across the interval. The noise of the discharge was deafening, and the operator was compelled to stuff his ears with cotton, and, furthermore, to wrap a heavy cloth around the ears. The striking distance of the sparks was increased by the employment of the wet terminals from two inches to four. The deafening noise was probably caused by the explosion of the hydrogen and oxygen gases produced by the dissociation of the water vapor. The noise of lightning discharges is doubtless enhanced in the same manner by the presence of great moisture in the clouds."

OUR INADEQUATE RAILWAY TRACKS.

PROBABLY the most important result of the recent sensational speed-experiments in Germany is their demonstration of the fact that great speed can not be reached on the ordinary track. Says a critic in *The Railway Age* (Chicago, November 13):

"The most serious aspect of the affair—serious as the matters already mentioned are—lies in the track. Practically unchanged for the past thirty years, except in the weight of its various parts, discontinuous every thirty feet of its length, exposed to enormous shocks and supported on an unequal foundation, it requires the closest attention of large forces of men, is a source of constant anxiety to those charged with its maintenance, and in many ways violates the true conception of an engineering structure. Its name even, 'permanent way,' can only be applied in derision. During the first trials between Marienfelde and Zossen, when a speed of approximately one hundred miles an hour was reached, the track broke down, and before running could be resumed an entire reconstruction was necessary. This was without any of the blows due to the improperly balanced driving-wheels which might have been present with a steam-locomotive. . . . . .

"We cling to the wooden cross-tie, altho the prophecy of its early exhaustion rings in our ears. We continue to recite the ineradicable defects of the angle-bar while sending our orders to the mills. We adopt a standard series of rail-sections, and at the end of ten years agitate for a different series. And the elasticity of a track supported on so inelastic a material as broken stone or gravel is gravely discussed. It is, therefore, but reasonable to assume that, where so many essential faults exist in the separate parts of a structure, they must be unsuited to the combination which they form, and it is this view of the matter which is gradually forcing itself upon the railway mind; it is from some such preconception that any substantial improvements must be expected."

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

HOW A PULLMAN-CAR IS CLEANED.—"The management of the Pullman company," says *The Sun* (New York), "in controversion of the recent criticisms of the sanitary condition of their cars, has sent out this statement of just what the process of cleaning a Pullman-car is: As soon as a Pullman-car arrives at its destination it is entirely stripped, the carpets are beaten and aired and the interior of the car is thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water. The blankets are taken out of the car and are thoroughly blown out with compressed air at a ninety-pound pressure. It is impracticable to wash them after every trip, but they go to the laundry several times a year, which is oftener than is the case with hotel blankets. All linen is renewed each trip. Every case of sickness in the car, however trivial, is followed by the antiseptic cleansing of the section occupied by the sick person, and the entire car is sprayed with formaldehyd. As a further sanitary precaution, in the newer cars of the company, purely decorative draperies are being omitted, and the necessary ones, such as berth curtains, are being made of a lighter material which does not hold dust or odors."

"FOR a considerable time," say the *Revue Scientifique*, "the military authorities of different countries have been seeking all means of concealing their troops and material as long as possible from the enemy. Hence the eternal question of the color of uniforms, cannon, guns, etc. They have come to an agreement in so far as the shining of steel is concerned; and cannon and bayonets are now universally made with dull finish. But it is not the same with the colors used to make carriages, caissons, and other war material invisible at a distance. And if we are to credit an interesting item of news that comes from England, we have been making a mistake in choosing for this purpose neutral tints, such as grays and browns. Starting with the fact that in nature great masses of uniform color are much more conspicuous than a mixture of different tints, an English officer conceived the idea of painting the mounts and caissons of certain pieces of field artillery with stripes of red, blue, yellow, etc. The experiment succeeded perfectly. The troops sent to look for this multi-colored battery did not begin to distinguish it until they were within 1,000 yards of it. On the other hand pieces painted a uniform neutral tint formed a large dark spot, visible from a distance and the more easily when the ground was clear. What shall we think now of the discredit shrown on the varicolored uniforms of the Scotch troops and in general of the use of bright colors for military uniforms?"—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMENT ON THE SALE OF THE FRIARS' LANDS.

THE news from the Philippines, that the friars' lands have been bought for $7,250,000 by the United States Government (see THE LITERARY DIGEST, December 26), evokes widely differing expressions of opinion from Roman Catholic papers in this country. Some of the comment is of a decidedly unfriendly kind. The New York *Freeman's Journal*, for example, remarks: "Now that the friars are about to be ousted and Americans to get possession, land frauds and scandals and swindles may soon be expected as in order in the Philippines, and the Filipino is pretty certain to have a turn of the same experience that the 'poor Indian' has long been familiar with." *The Ave Maria* (Notre Dame) says:

"The vexed question of the 'friars' lands' in the Philippines has at last been settled by the transfer of four hundred thousand acres to the Government for the sum of $7,250,000. In other words, the friars who took up unoccupied lands three or four centuries ago have been able, by dint of building roads and bridges, constructing irrigation-works, and making other improvements, to raise the valuation of the land from zero to $18 per acre. It will hardly impress the American financier as a notable performance for hundreds of men during hundreds of years, yet it is a fair account of that process of grinding and oppression which so scandalized certain preachers and politicians in this country a little while ago. As to the enforced transfer of the property, in principle it is easy enough to understand. It was an un-American proceeding from start to finish, and it would never have taken place had the land been owned by a Protestant missionary board. Trinity Church, New York, for example, is a richer corporation than all the orders in the Philippines would make if united into a single body. In practise, however, since the sale of lands was made without public protest, we are left to assume that the action of our Government met with acceptance from the highest religious authorities. At any rate, it will be easy to determine in a short time whether the 'friars' lands' were, as we have been repeatedly told, the sole obstacle to the pacification of the islands. Let us hope that at least it may break the deadlock in the religious situation."

The New World (Chicago) recalls that a hundred years ago the property of the Mexican religious orders was seized without any compensation whatever. At least "our Government has been juster than was the Mexican republic, and for this every just-minded American has cause to be glad." We quote further from the same paper:

"Presumably the religious orders are glad to be rid of their property. Certainly it has long been the cause of trouble for them. A flourishing vineyard long ago accomplished the destruction of Naboth. Whoever has anything valuable in this world may expect the hatred of envious neighbors. The fact that the friars possessed this land excited against them the bitter opposition of Filipinos and Americans alike. It was not a cry of innocence injured; it was the snarl of greed hankering to fasten its teeth in that which others owned. Frankly, we believe that because the friars owned this land the American public has been for several years regaled with statements of the shortcomings of those unselfish men. The purpose of those who desired their possessions was to blacken their character and drive them out. Let us be grateful this effort has failed."

The Western World (Des Moines) thinks it just as well that the United States has bought the land, and expresses the belief that the sale "will not in any way prove detrimental to the progress of Catholicity in the islands." *The New Century* (Washington) is one of the few Roman Catholic papers to give unqualified support to the course of the Administration. It says:

"We have never doubted that the religious orders in the Philippines have been grossly maligned and slandered; we have frequently in these columns so expressed ourselves. Nor have we ever doubted that the possession of these lands excited the cupidity of Americans and Filipinos alike. Whoever possesses lands or goods in abundance may look for the envy and hatred of those less fortunate. Greed has been a factor in all the antagonism that has been directed against the friars, particularly since our American occupation of the archipelago.

"Greed inspired the cry that was so insistent some time ago that the 'friars must go' and that their 'lands must be confiscated.'

"While we believe all this and have more than once expressed that belief, we have thought and still think that the friars, because of the fact that they were the largest landholding class in the Philippines and because of their intimate connection with the hateful Spanish régime, had become in large measure obnoxious to the people—a people too almost entirely Catholic. It was this feeling of antagonism that made the Aglipay schism possible and gave it such an impetus.

"Now, with the settlement of the disturbing question of the land and with the creation of a hierarchy, wholly American in character, conditions favorable to the church and to good government will happily prevail. *Deo Gratias!*"

An interesting question is, "Where will the money go?" and under this heading *The Catholic Citizen* (Milwaukee) offers the following observations:

"If, as stated, something over seven million dollars in gold is to be paid for the lands, we may calculate that the interest at four per cent upon that amount would sustain a thousand missionaries in the field. This would be a very substantial endowment for the church in the Philippines. We trust it is to be left there. We know of no other place in the missionary world where it would do so much good or where it more justly belongs.

"The American bishops are now in the Philippines. It is for them to safeguard the interests of the church in this matter. They know that the Catholics of the United States are sufficiently burdened by church and school, and it would not be reasonable or proper that any appeal should come to this country for the support of the church in the Philippines. No contribution-box should ever be sent around our churches for such a purpose, especially if this large sum (seven million dollars) or any portion of it is allowed to go to Spain to become the spoil later on of an anticlerical government."

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF "PARSIFAL."

IN his last contribution to philosophic writing, published in 1879, Richard Wagner thus states his view of the relation of art to religion: "It may be said that when religion becomes artistic, it is the function of art to preserve the inner kernel of religion; and the way it does this is to take the mythical symbols which religion insists on having men believe in their literal sense, to conceive them according to their emblematic sense, and thus by ideal representation to call attention to the deep truth concealed within them." These words were written as a commentary on and a justification of "Parsifal," and they reveal the composer's motive in writing the opera. "Wagner's great ethical and religious lessons," says Mr. B. O. Flower, of Boston, in *The Arena* (December), "are not found in the local color, in the superficial thoughts or ideas of his characters, which in many cases merely reflect the opinions, superstitions, or concepts dominant at certain periods. They are to be found rather in the profound symbolism illustrating vital ethical truths which concern man in his relation to man, as a child of the Infinite, and as an interdependent unit in the vast ocean of life." Mr. Flower writes further:

"As far back as 1848 Wagner conceived the idea of weaving the life of Jesus into a music drama. For ten years he brooded upon this colossal theme. It was his intention to represent the great Nazarene as he conceived him—a splendid type of perfected manhood, the crown and blossom of the human family, the ideal man, filled with the divine afflatus to such an extent that for very love he is driven on, through cities, villages, hamlets, and along the highways, searching for the suffering ones of earth that he may bless, help, and restore. He intended to give the world the superb picture of love incarnate—a man who shadowed forth the coming man, when love shall rule in every heart.

"We do not know whether Wagner ever wholly abandoned the cherished plan of writing this drama depicting the life of the great Nazarene, but it is probable that when he composed 'Par-

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sifal' he had decided that the time was not yet ripe for so radical a work as he had contemplated. . . . . .

"Later in his career Wagner became deeply interested in the legends, myths, wonder-stories, and mysticism of the Far East. The philosophy and religious teachings of India possessed a certain fascination for a mind so tinged with transcendentalism as that of the composer, and while enthusiastically devouring the wealth of Indian literature he conceived the idea of producing a great religious drama illustrating the life and teachings of Buddha. In his work on Jesus he proposed to illustrate the triumph of life through loving service—service which led the Master to go forth in tireless search for earth's miserables. In his second drama he intended to illustrate another great religious idea which has influenced the mind of millions—namely, triumph or self-mastery through renunciation of the sensuous life—the seeking and finding God through withdrawing from the world, and in exalted contemplation and introspection. This music-drama was to be entitled 'The Victors,' and it was to deal primarily with the victory of the soul over the illusions or transient joys born of the sense perceptions. Still later, however, while engaged in the Ring cycle, Wagner's mind reverted more and more to a play the outline of which came to him while he was composing 'Lohengrin,' and which should concern itself with the central figure in the multitudinous legends pertaining to the Holy Grail."

In regard to the "spiritual significance" of "Parsifal," Mr. Flower has this to say:

"Take, for example, the life of Parsifal. Here we have a splendid illustration of the evolution of a life from self-absorption to selflessness; from negative good or guilelessness to the positive virtue which can come only with knowledge and the victory born of triumph over multitudinous temptations which beset the pathway of life. Here, too, we see indifference to the sufferings, needs, and yearnings of others give place to that intense concern for the happiness, peace, and welfare of the most hopeless and despairing ones, which found its supreme expression in the life of the Great Nazarene.

"Parsifal emphasizes the fact that 'Heaven is not gained with a single bound.' After Parsifal had won the great victory and gained the Sacred Spear, still he had not grown enough to be worthy to rule in the council-chambers of Monsalvat. He had to grow to new heights. Thus many years yet of struggle, temptation, and trial awaited him. Self-mastery and spiritual supremacy are attained, not by one victory, but by many. They come only as the rich fruition of a life of strenuous endeavor, a life of loyalty to duty and to love.

"'Parsifal' teaches the lesson which is the luminous soul of the noblest religions. It tells us that not only is love—pure, exalted love—the greatest thing in the world, but that it is the only light that leads the wanderer to the throne of the Infinite.

"Turning from Parsifal, we see in Kundry a typical character, rich in suggestive lessons. She represents the aspiring soul, chained by passion and desire. The world is full of Kundrys. The young man who a few years ago indulged in liquor and laughed at the possibility of its mastering him, but who to-day vainly strives to break from the thralldom of appetite and who in his better moments resolves and strives to obey the higher voices in his soul, is but one manifestation of the many slaves of passion, appetite, and desire who are under Klingsor's spell, who worship at the shrine of the gross and the material, even while the soul revolts at its bondage and strives to break its fetters.

"In the magician's realm we see the world of pseudo-pleasures, bright, glittering, and attractive, but ephemeral. Here true love, which is the crown and glory of parenthood and which in its broader manifestation reaches out in divine helpfulness to all, is not known; but in its stead we find gross sensual gratification; lust for love, satiety of the passions for spiritual exaltation, and absorption in the lower self instead of concern for others. Here the passions, appetites, and desires are lords and masters. Here all is counterfeit and all is transitory. At any moment the fatal hour may come, as come sooner or later it always does, when the illusions disappear, the sweets are turned to bitter, beauty vanishes, and the one-time music is changed into harsh and guttural tones, ending in groans of anguish or moans of despair. Here the splendid garden, palpitating with sensuous life, may at any time become a bleak and barren waste.

"Parsifal is colossal, he is typical. His evolution is that which must be taken by every individual who attains to the spiritual supremacy which brings to the soul peace on earth and an immortality of felicity. Parsifal points the way to the heights, not merely for the individual, but for society as well. All nations and civilizations which are not destined to suffer eclipse must tread the royal pathway over which he passed. No more solemn truth confronts mankind to-day than is taught by the struggle and victory of Parsifal."

The religious significance of "Parsifal" is interpreted in very different and much more derogatory fashion by several writers. Mr. J. G. Huneker, a well-known musical critic, scoffs at the "sacred" pretensions of the opera. "'Parsifal' was and is the biggest delusion of a delusion-haunted epoch," he says. He continues (in *The Metropolitan Magazine*, January):

"In America, where new religions sprout daily as do potatoes in dark cellars, slighter causes have led to the foundation of a religion—witness the rise and growth of Zionism. 'I know of but one thing more beautiful than "Parsifal,"' wrote Alfred Ernest, 'and that is any low mass in any church.' And in this sentence the writer puts his finger on the weak spot of 'Parsifal'—it lacks sincerity. It is theatric, bombastic, hollow. No matter how overpowering it may be architecturally it yet lacks the truthful note that is to be found at any Christian church. With all its grandeur, its theatric pathos, its conjuring of churchly and philosophical motives, its ravishing pictures, its marmoreal attitudes, 'Parsifal' falls short of one thing—faith; a faith you can find in any roadside Bavarian wood-cutter's hut. . . . .

"For those to whom a religious feeling must be dramatized to be endurable, 'Parsifal' may prove rare and stimulating; for such the stern simplicities of doctrinal truth have no attraction. Wagner, luxuriously Byzantine in his faiths, appreciated the correlation of erotic and religious emotions; so he erected a lordly pleasure drama wherein the mystically inclined, the admirer of pomps and gauds, and the esoteric worshiper could all find solace, amusement, and consolation. Yet Parsifal's pallid virtue can never stir us as do the heroic sacrifices of Senta, Tannhäuser, and Brunnhilde. . . . . .

"'Parsifal' prophesies the cure of all sin by renunciation. Renunciation is also the burden of Tolstoy's message. Both

From an etching by Egusquinz.

"One mystic midnight came a messenger
Of God to Titurel, and gave to him
The Holy Grail—"

Courtesy of *The Critic*.

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BISHOPS OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A photograph taken on the occasion of the recent Pan-American Conference, held in Washington. There are eighty-six Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country. Bishop Tuttle, of Missouri, is Dean.

men lived their lives to the limit of physical exhaustion, and both in the decline of their powers preached and preach a rigorous asceticism. Is it any wonder that America—youngest and most vigorous among the nations—refuses seriously to consider such doctrines? For that reason the message of the 'sacred' 'Parsifal' may be set down as artistically immoral. It is neither blasphemous nor is it religious; yet it is the denial of life itself."

Similarly, Mr. W. J. Henderson writes in the New York *Sun:* "Buddha and Arthur Schopenhauer taught the dramatist more essentials than the Holy Bible did. The foundations of the drama rest on the philosophy of negation. The Christianity is merely ornamental, spectacular, and delusive."

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GREATER EFFICIENCY OF THE CHURCH.

"IAN MACLAREN" seems to have transferred his sphere of influence from the literary to the religious field. We had occasion to notice in a recent issue (November 14) Dr. Watson's much-discussed plea for a social revival. A later address, delivered before a Presbyterian Association at Cambridge University and printed in *The British Weekly* (London), deals with questions of church efficiency and raises many points of a debatable nature. At the outset of his address Dr. Watson says:

"As the church is affected by the spirit of the day, and as at present one of the strongest desires in the English mind is for the reform of machinery, so that the energy of the nation may not be thwarted or wasted, there is also, I take it, among the laity, and I hope also among the clergy, an earnest wish to see the church organization made more efficient. And this, I may assume, will be attained, not by the increase of officials and committees, certainly not by more laws and red tape, but by the more simple, direct, and common-sense use of our resources. It is not a question as to whether we ought to have more men and more buildings and more funds, but as to whether we can not use the men and the buildings and the funds to a better purpose, and whether, if we were organized like a great public service or like an able business enterprise, we should not be able so to use them."

Dr. Watson goes on to express dissatisfaction with Presbyterian methods of selecting and training young men for the ministry. Especially does he deprecate what he terms "the preaching candidature" for a vacant charge:

"Can there be anything more unbecoming in our office than preaching the evangel of Christ in a competition against five other selected candidates, or anything more likely to hinder a man of self-respect from entering the ministry? Can there be anything worse for the spiritual temper of a congregation than to sit as judges on the declaration of divine truth, or is there any function which in practise rouses worse passions in church life than a disputed election? Is it not the case that the judgment of the half-dozen well-educated and spiritually minded men in a congregation counts for very little in the kind of congregation to which the probationer makes his appeal, against the votes of the multitude who are not well educated and not accustomed to deal with large affairs? The few will inquire many things before they appoint their clergyman—about his scholarship, his character, his common sense, his inherent capacity, his manners, his piety—and they will not likely appoint a quarrelsome man or a rude person; but the many can be captured any day by a windbag with two sermons full of apocryphal religious anecdotes and conventional phraseology. Here again we feel that there is something wrong, and that the best is not being done, either for the candidates or for the church."

Arguing for more adequate financial provision for aged and infirm ministers, Dr. Watson passes on to the problems of public worship:

"The spirit of the day is playing upon the mind of the people, and they are not ready to attend two services a day on Sunday simply from the tradition of the past or the force of habit. They are asking why there should be two services, neither more nor less, and what law enforces the obligation of repeating the morning service in the evening. . . . The time has come when we have to justify the repetition of services throughout our church, and to show what purpose each service fulfils. If the same people are to attend morning and evening service on Sunday, the evening service must have a character of its own. Would it not be worth considering whether the sermon at morning service should not be devoted to the edification of believers in their holy faith, and deal largely with experimental religion within the Christian sphere, while the evening sermon should be devoted, say, to lectures on the Bible, on the history of the church, on the great doctors, leaders, heroes, and saints of our faith, on foreign missions, on the regeneration of the people, on the presentation of Christianity to them who are without, and the defense of Christianity both as a creed and as a life? The services of the church would in this way be justified and utilized for the most practical spiritual ends, and the evening service, no less than the morning, maintain its hold not only upon religious people, but also upon the outer circles who dwell in the debatable ground."

The question of public prayer is next considered:

"At present it is left to the minister to pray for anything he

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pleases and to leave out anything which he pleases. His prayer may consist of petitions, or it may be an exposition of doctrine, or an explanation of his own spiritual condition, or it may be a reflection of his state of health. . . . A large body of people have been gathered for divine worship in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the appointment of their church. Ought they not to know—at least in large part—what is going to be asked as they know what is going to be sung? Ought they not to have some security that their common wants, confessions, and thanksgiving shall be presented to God? And following out the principle which we all feel should be applied to praise, ought they not to have some opportunity of joining in the prayer of the congregation by repetition or response? Why should the church exercise supervision over praise and none over prayer? Why should the church provide a hymn-book and not a prayer-book? Why should the church refuse to allow the minister to select songs of praise from any quarter, and yet allow him without any check to offer the prayers of the people? I am not arguing for the prohibition of free prayers, which ought to be included in every service and without which the service would not be complete; but I am suggesting that the time has fully come when our church should provide certain forms of common prayer for her people, and that we are losing every year through not supplying this want."

The rearrangement of churches in cities and the reform of methods of home-mission work are touched upon in conclusion. "The changes which I have indicated," says Dr. Watson, "are not of slight importance and can not be quickly effected." Their very mention may for a moment "give a shock" to conservatives; but the public mind is opening up in many directions, and "history shows that there has been no body so progressive as the church of Christ in the development of her creed, of her government, of her ethical life, or of her practical service."

ON TEACHING THE OLD TESTAMENT TO CHILDREN.

SHALL the presence of myth and fiction in the Bible be admitted or denied? If admitted, in what spirit shall the Scriptural stories be presented to the juvenile mind? These questions are bound to confront all who are charged with the responsibility of a child's religious education in these days. The Hon. Violet Stuart Wortley, who writes on this subject in *The National Review* (October), remarks that many parents seem inclined to "lend a silent acquiescence to a great deal that they have ceased to take literally, rather than 'run the risk,' as they say, of impairing the child's respect for the sacred work." Such a course she believes to be unwise:

"This is a religious age—not in the sense of sleepy acquiescence in traditional theology, but in the sense that people are very much alive to questions of religion, and are earnestly seeking to make certain the grounds of their belief. This being so, and discussion in the air, our children are bound to hear the Old Testament criticized, and before they listen to arguments of a hasty, or, perhaps, prejudiced, nature, it seems more prudent to prepare them by a knowledge of the ground over which discussion ranges. Some notion of what is being done by patient workers in the field of Bible exegesis will enormously increase the interest of those who teach and those who learn about the Bible, and the timid spirit need have nothing to fear from critics who are intent mainly on bringing into prominence the essential truths contained in the writing and in establishing the relative values of the differing portions. 'The letter killeth and the spirit maketh alive' was said by one who refused to be bound down by tradition, and knew that revelation was progressive, and ever renewed according to the state of development reached by man. The degree of truth revealed in the Old Testament sufficed for the Jews of that period, but it would be shutting our eyes to God's scheme of things if we asserted that this ancient work was either infallible or final, and it is far from desirable to give to our children that impression."

The Biblical World (Chicago, November) publishes a symposium on "Myth and Fiction as Employed in the Bible." Nine theological professors give their views, and practically all agree that there is a considerable legendary element in the Bible. We are compelled to admit, says Prof. John E. McFadyen, of Knox College, Toronto, that the early stories of the Old Testament "were not recorded in writing, but were handed on, as among other peoples, by tradition." It is maintained, however, that this fact does not detract from the value of the Bible, and that fiction may often be a legitimate and important means of imparting religious truth. Says Prof. W. G. Ballantine, of the International Y. M. C. A. School, Springfield, Mass.:

"To infer at once that if any portions of the Bible are imaginative, they are therefore false and worthless, is wholly unwarranted. To say that the devout scholars who have discovered these facts are attacking the Bible is unjust.

"Fiction is a highly useful part of every literature. Outside of the Bible it reigns supreme. Look at your child's library—'Hiawatha,' 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'Lady of the Lake,' 'Mrs. Wiggs,' 'Prince and Pauper,' Andersen's and Grimm's tales, Hawthorne's 'Wonder Book'—fiction every one. Adults are no less busy over fiction, and this whatever language they read. For the masterpiece of every literature is a fiction. Witness Homer, the Greek tragedians, Vergil, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Goethe and Schiller, Browning and Tennyson. Walter Scott and the innumerable train of the novelists find readers by hundreds where historians and scientists scarce find units.

"Are all of these works of the imagination false and pernicious, and is this universal preference of the reading world only another proof of man's degeneracy? By no means. Fiction is a normal instrument for delighting, instructing, inspiring, and ennobling. It is the readiest vehicle for conveying truth. . . . . .

"It is of the utmost consequence that we ascertain just what sort of truth is to be recognized in each portion of the Scriptures. Many ridiculous mistakes, and not a few disastrous ones, have arisen from confusion here. The story of woman's creation will forever remain a divine statement of the most blessed fact in social life, the identification of husband and wife. But when admitted to be an allegory, it at once ceases to be a bludgeon to be used on the head of the anthropologist who is honestly investigating the origin of the human species."

The Boston *Congregationalist* (December 5) comments:

"The stories of the Old Testament do not need to be labeled as parables. But many Christian teachers have yet to learn their full use in imparting divine truth. To attempt to explain the first chapters of Genesis in accordance with scientific facts of comparatively recent discovery of which the child learns in school, is to confuse his ideas of religion and weaken his confidence in the Bible as interpreting the voice of conscience. To present to him these chapters as the sublime poem of creation is to open to him the mysteries of the being of God in his world. It will not increase the child's reverence for the Bible to tell him that its trustworthiness depends on evidence that Jonah in the belly of a sea monster wrote a song, which is mainly a mosaic of sentences from the Psalms, some of which were written centuries after Jonah's time. But let the story-teller have his place, tell the child that Jonah stands for God's people fleeing from duty to which they were faithless, and that the monster is Babylon, which swallowed them and let them go forth again, and he will understand the wonderful meaning and message of the ancient story. He will not be deeply impressed by your knowledge or your ability if you tell him he must believe that Job in the agonies of disease sat around with his friends on a heap of refuse and extemporized the magnificent poems ascribed to them. But let the story-teller have his way and the child will be prepared to understand by and by how a soul which trusts in God meets the deepest problems of experience and grows nobler through suffering.

"The Bible is a literature as well adapted to the child mind as any of the great classics, ancient or modern, and it surpasses them all, tho they are all works of the imagination. But to treat it as a text-book on history, geology, astronomy, and other sciences, miraculously prepared many centuries in advance of the time when it could be understood, is to do violence to it and to any tenable theory of inspiration. The Bible is a library revealing the mind of God through prophets who had divine insight and used all forms of literature to make known what they saw. It should be taught to children as prophets spoke and wrote it."

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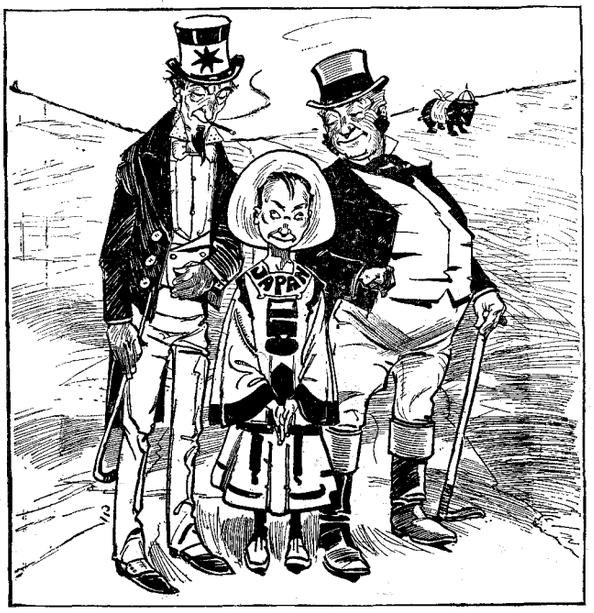
FOREIGN TOPICS.

ATTITUDE OF THE POWERS IN A RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

NOT one leading newspaper in Europe is bold enough to affirm that war between Russia and Japan will be avoided. The well-informed Paris *Figaro* is heroically hopeful in the face of the gloomiest news, but the London *Standard*, whose opinions carry great weight, is representative of a numerous class of reliable organs in anticipating the worst. Upon one point there is general agreement: the protracted nature of the negotiations between



A STRAIN ON LITTLE MARY.

SIMPLE JAPPY: "You no likee see me gobblee upee?"
J. B.: "Don't you worry! He no gobblee very muchee. He not feeling very well inside as it is." —*Judy* (London).

Tokyo and St. Petersburg is due to the uncertainty in both capitals regarding the attitude of the Powers should war actually break out. Here, in the opinion of the *Kreuz Zeitung* (Berlin), is the crux of the crisis. The factors to be considered, it opines, are Great Britain, the ally of Japan; France, the ally of Russia; China, and the United States. Germany is eliminated by the Berlin organ, much to the amusement of the *Indépendance Belge* (Brussels), which is inclined to attribute some of the present obscurity to the policy of Emperor William. The whole press of Europe is now discussing the influence of each one of these factors in the event of war.

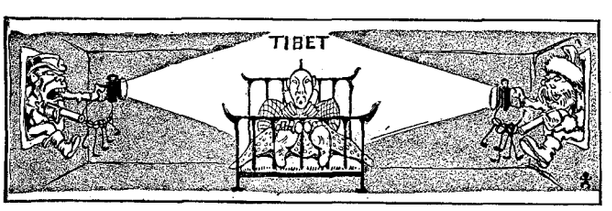
Great Britain.—The mistress of the seas will not be drawn into a campaign between Japan and Russia, asserts the *Journal des Débats* (Paris). "Japan has been indirectly informed that in the event of war she can not count upon the cooperation of Great Britain." So much, it believes, is apparent from a recent speech delivered by Mr. Balfour in London, when he pointed out that while the Japanese believed an immediate attack preferable to a delayed war, they would not risk the last resort without making sure of an ally. Mr. Balfour said this, according to the Paris paper, at the recent Lord Mayor's banquet. But what he really said on that occasion, as quoted in the London *Standard*, was this:

"I think I can say that there is nothing in the present state of the world's affairs which need cause any overpowering anxiety to those who depend, as you in this room so largely depend, upon the maintenance of European peace. In the Far East, no doubt, as in the Near East, there are subjects which give us food for thought, if not for profound anxiety; but, as regards the Far East, I think we may feel reassured by reflecting that there is no more passionate advocate of general peace than the Emperor of Russia, and that our allies of Japan are, I am convinced, as certain to show moderation, discretion, and judgment in the demands they make as firmness in carrying those demands into effect. With all these things making together for peace, I think we may look without any undue anxiety at the difficulties not yet solved, but, I hope, to be solved without undue delay, which still preoccupy the minds of diplomatists in the Far East."

The Austrian papers insist that Great Britain could not avoid becoming involved in a war between Russia and Japan. The *Fremdenblatt* (Vienna) reminds its readers that the Anglo-Japanese alliance provides for "maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea." If Japan goes to war with Russia, Great Britain, by the terms of the alliance, "will maintain strict neutrality and use her efforts to prevent other Powers from joining in the hostilities" against Japan. But there is the binding third clause: "If any other Power or Powers should join in hostilities against that ally, the other contracting party will come to its assistance and will conduct war in common and make peace in mutual agreement with it." China may take a hand. Whether she does so or not, the war "would get beyond control." But this line of reasoning is defective, the *Tribuna* (Rome) inclines to think, because Great Britain will do her own interpreting when the meaning of the treaty comes up for decision. It attracts attention that the London *Times* is very oracular regarding the attitude of Great Britain in the event of war. The British organs generally show a tendency to complain of the terms of the alliance with Japan, a fact which makes the *Pester Lloyd* (Budapest) infer that Great Britain will keep out of the struggle. European press opinion seems to be drifting to this view.

France.—When the present crisis assumed shape, there was much eagerness to see what the Paris *Temps* would say, that paper being the recognized organ of the French Foreign Office. But the Parisian organ refrains from saying a word regarding the policy of the Foreign Office in the event of war. This reticence seems to the *Kreuz Zeitung* (Berlin) to mean that France and Great Britain will act in concert. "The alliance between France and Russia has lost vitality." The radical and socialist organs, such as the *Action*, the *Lanterne*, and the *Petite République*, have recently adopted a markedly anti-Russian tone. The last-named paper is the organ of the eminent Socialist leader, Jean Jaurès, and its growing hostility to Russia is interpreted in the *Vorwärts* (Berlin) as meaning that the Chamber of Deputies at Paris would never sanction French interference in a Russo-Japanese war. The German papers are fairly unanimous in arguing that France would hold aloof with Great Britain, both Powers appearing on the scene when terms of peace come under discussion. This is plausible to the *Indépendance Belge* (Brussels), which remembers that the terms of the Dual Alliance are really unknown to the world, and that any speculation based upon the existence of the compact are futile.

Germany.—Quite recently the London *Times* has been a little uneasy regarding an alleged newly made agreement between Ger-



BURGLARS.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA (simultaneously): "Another!" —*Jugend* (Munich).

many and Russia covering their respective policies in the Far East. The terms of this agreement, it says, are unknown, but the British organs are manifestly uneasy at the possibilities opened up by it. The *Vossische Zeitung* and the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, the

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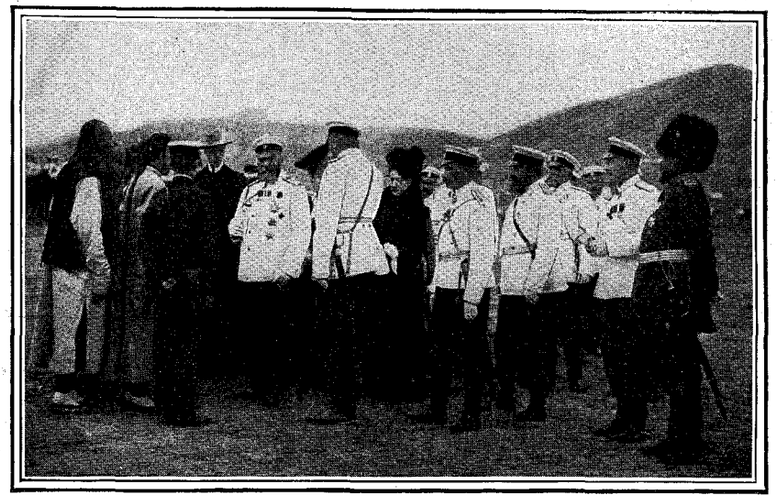
former National Liberal and the latter Democratic, agree that Germany will be a mere spectator in the event of war; but the London *News* insists that Germany's "detestable geographical position" compels her to associate herself to a certain extent with Russian policy everywhere. An organ supposed to be in touch with the Berlin Foreign Office and published in the English language, *The Continental Correspondence* (Berlin), deals with this branch of the subject thus:

"Germany's attitude in case of a serious complication in the Far East can not be so easily regulated by Russia's desire. It showed more zeal than judgment on the part of the Russian papers when they tried to interpret the cordial reception of some German men-of-war in the harbor of Vladivostock as a sign of an alliance of Russia with Germany. Certainly Russian diplomacy never dreamt nor thought of such a contingency. But we should not be surprised to learn that Russia has made efforts to get Germany's pledge for a policy of strict neutrality under any circumstances. If Germany could be gained over for such an understanding, Russia's advantage would not only be the direct gain involved in the inactivity of her powerful western neighbor; even more important would be the indirect consequence of this move. For thereby a permanent antagonism of Germany and England would have been brought about.

"But why should Germany be persuaded to give preference to Russian interests? It is true that at present there are no points of political or commercial rivalry between Germany and Russia, neither in Europe nor beyond the seas, while at least the keen industrial rivalry between England and Germany has been recently much accentuated in public discussions. But that is certainly no reason for Germany to allow herself to be dragged into a political opposition to England. For there is, under present circumstances, every chance that this commercial and industrial competition will not be interfered with by unfair methods, and that even possible frictions in the colonial aspirations of both countries will be amicably settled. For Germany, friendly relations with England are, of course, just as important as her traditional friendship with Russia. It may be that under such circumstances calm neutrality in a case of an Anglo-Russian conflict could be on principle declared a natural policy for Germany. But, as nobody knows what emergencies may be brought about in the course of a great conflict in Eastern Asia or anywhere else, a great Power like Germany is obliged to insist on having her hands free to intervene or not to intervene according to her own interests turning one way or the other."



ADMIRAL ALEXEIEFF AND STAFF AT PORT ARTHUR.

Among other things the admiral conducts at Port Arthur, through a member of his staff, an aggressive paper called the *Novy Krai*, concerning which *The China Mail* (Hongkong), a British organ, says: "The statement of the semi-official Russian newspaper *Novy Krai* in regard to Japan as a nation is little calculated to allay the bitterness of feeling that exists in Japan at the present moment. It seems to be the desire of a certain section in Russia to irritate the Japanese and to force on war between Russia and Japan, and some one is using the new Port Arthur journal to apply the plaster of abuse and misrepresentation to further that object."

The United States.—Newspapers in England agree that the United States could by no possibility be drawn into a conflict between Russia and Japan. But the *Hamburger Nachrichten* calls attention to the strength of the American fleet in the Far East. There are three formidable battle-ships and some cruisers under the command of Rear Admiral Evans. "Reinforcements are sent constantly." This, it is inferred, indicates expectation of war on the part of the United States Government. "Russia has succeeded in completely alienating American sympathy," says the London *Times*, "and in causing profound popular irritation and disgust, which, no doubt, affect the United States Government." Washington will see that its rights are respected, but the British organ thinks Russia will be too cautious to provoke extreme measures. "As long as the United States obtains the due recognition of its treaties with China," says the Paris *Temps*, "that is to say, the opening of the ports agreed upon, it will not be too particular whether a Russian watchman or a Chinese watchman stands guard at the gates of the Far East."

China.—The great aim of the Japanese, in the event of war, will be to involve China in the fray, thinks the *Journal des Débats* (Paris). "Japan may well argue that if China is brought into the affair, the range of the complications will be enlarged. Other Powers will be forced to follow in short order, and to oppose, if necessary, the forward march of victorious Russia. If, therefore, the Japanese deem war inevitable, they have a special motive for dragging in the Celestial Empire." This, thinks the Parisian paper, "is of interest to our country." One of the first things to happen in China, should there be war, thinks the London *Standard*, would be an attempt of the court to fly from Peking. "The palaces at Hsian, Kai-feng-fu, and Pao-ting-fu have, ever since 1900, been kept more or less in a state of preparation in case of emergencies." Away from Peking, the Chinese dynasty would be comparatively safe from the heavy hand of the Powers, according to the London *Spectator*, altho the London *Times* is of opinion that the Empress-Dowager and the "clique of mandarins" are wholly devoted to Russia. There are exceptions, such as the enlightened viceroy, Yuan-Shi-Kai. "Russia is hotly opposed to him in consequence of his aversion to her rubles." There is, consequently, a plan afoot to send him south. As the *Indépendance Belge* (Brussels) analyzes the outlook, the dynasty and the greater number of the mandarins would be on the side of Russia, the educated and patriotic Chinese would favor Japan, and the masses of the people would not side with either. But the Paris *Temps* says "the mandarins Chang-Chih-Tung and Yuan-Shih-Kai are said to have advised their master to ally himself with Japan and to make common cause against the usurper, Russia." The difficulty in the way, thinks the London *Standard*, is the fact that China is "still seething with unrest and menaced at any moment with dynastic revolution." "All the dangerous ambitions of the civilized and uncivilized world" would be "aroused in the scramble over that unwieldy derelict." *The Celestial Empire*, a well-informed British paper published at Shanghai, thus describes the condition of the Chinese Government:

"The central Government has probably reached its lowest pressure of power and influence. The authority and power of Peking have been weakened by several things. The growth and independence of the native press in the foreign settlements has weakened it. The Boxer failure has weakened it. The loss of Manchuria has

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already weakened it, and when the people know still more about the Manchurian loss the Government will have suffered still more loss of prestige. The plaint of impecuniosity and helplessness has weakened it. The failure to carry out any of the nearly hundred reforms promulgated by edict has weakened it. The steady progress of bribery, the selling of rank, and other evils in direct violation of recent and explicit interdiction, together with general distrust and suspicion in the highest places have so weakened and honeycombed it that it is a wonder there is any vitality left to the central authority. It would be well for the real men of China to investigate the subject and find out just what the central Government is and upon what resources it may continue to rely. It may be that a breath can dissolve it. Who knows, it may never lift a hand to defend itself if attacked, but may vanish like a nightmare at dawn."

In General.—The forward movement of Russia has been made the subject of an alarmist article in *The Nineteenth Century and After* (London) from the pen of that noted British publicist, Dr. Edward Dicey. He asserts that the concert of Europe is powerless in the existing situation and for that reason Great Britain should be on her guard. He thus sums up the position of the various continental Powers:

"Germany is bound by the instinct of self-preservation to favor no policy which might induce Russia and France to attack her jointly. Again, France is so firmly convinced that Russia will assist her in regaining Alsace and Lorraine, and in recovering her lost military prestige, that she has no will of her own in foreign affairs other than that of her 'great friend and ally.' Austria is so paralyzed by internal dissensions between her German, Slav, and Magyar provinces that she is bound to acquiesce in any policy Russia may favor, even if that policy should contemplate the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire and the consequent instalment of Russia at Constantinople as the mistress of the Bosporus, and the protectress of the Balkan peninsula. Italy is too conscious of her own weakness, so long as the feud between the Vatican and the Quirinal remains unsettled, to listen to any suggestion which might excite the hostility of the mighty Slav empire. Spain has ceased to be a first-class Power north of the Pyrenees. Belgium looks to Russia to protect her against the greed of France, while Holland looks to Russia to save her from annexation by Germany. Under these circumstances the idea of any Continental coalition, either directly or indirectly, of an anti-Russian character must be dismissed as impracticable."

The explanation of all obscurities in the Far East is afforded in the fact that Great Britain "has no definite policy," thinks that uncompromising military organ, *The Broad Arrow* (London). "For a generation at least the present crisis has been growing, and all we have done to meet it is to write correct despatches without any life in them." If the resources of Japan and Russia were great enough, thinks *The Morning Post* (London), "it might easily mean not one war, but a century of wars. . . . Neither Europe nor America can be long indifferent. It is a Pacific question, and as such concerns the United States, Canada, and the commonwealth of Australia." The *Novosti* (St. Petersburg) interprets a recent declaration by Count von Bülow in the Reichstag as meaning that Germany will have nothing to do with the Russo-Japanese war, should it come. "Now that Germany has categorically declared that she will not intervene in a conflict between Russia and Japan," says the Russian paper, "there will ensue not only a moderation of Japanese pretensions, but a confirmation of the other Powers in their resolve not to meddle." The *Novoye Vremya* (St. Petersburg) believes an alliance between Russia and Japan may well be one outcome of the existing crisis. It denies rumored ultimatums from Japan, declaring on this point:

"Almost every day despatches can be found in foreign newspapers, especially in English organs, dated from the Far East and stating that Japan has presented a new ultimatum to Russia. A specified time is fixed for a reply to these Japanese communications. It would appear from all these rumors that Japan is threatening, while Russia is making excuses and concessions with the object of gaining time. Russians, of course, need no evidence of the mendacity of such a presentation of the posture of affairs. In no circumstances, be they as desperate as they may, would Russia compromise her dignity as a great Power by any abjectness of demeanor, no matter how formidable the foe who harried her."—*Translations made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S TRIUMPHS.

PARLIAMENT "opens" on the second day of the coming month, unless present arrangements are changed. King Edward, it is announced, will attend, as the occasion is to be "a full state ceremony" with "a procession down the Mall." When the speech from the throne has been duly read, there will ensue what the London *Pilot* calls "a full-dress fiscal debate." Everything indicates that this debate will go Mr. Chamberlain's way, or the London *Mail*, the half-penny Unionist organ, popular with the masses, is much mistaken. It points triumphantly to the recent hotly contested bye-elections in south London, which resulted favorably to the ministry, in spite of dire opposition warnings that Mr. Chamberlain would tax food. "Never in recent years has attention been so closely focused on Parliamentary contests," de-

A MAD SITUATION.

THE CUCKOO: "How are you getting on with that egg?"
THE MARCH HARE: "Oh! do go away and leave me alone. I wish you hadn't dumped the beastly thing on me."
(The March Hare is trying to hatch out the Mad Hatter Cracked Cuckoo Egg in a Mare's Nest.)

—*The Westminster Gazette* (London).

clares the London *Express* (Unionist). "Mr. Chamberlain's policy is triumphant." This view is indorsed by the London *Graphic*, the London *Globe*, the London *Advertiser*, the London *Post*, and the London *Telegraph*. These are, however, Unionist organs. "We have never been disposed to overrate the importance of bye-elections," declares the London *Times*, "and we have no desire to do so now. Nevertheless, to put the matter at its lowest, these results can not be refused a rather striking negative significance." The London *Standard* denies that the bye-elections are "a striking victory for Mr. Chamberlain's policy." This Conservative organ, which refused to follow the lead of the London *Times* into the Chamberlain camp, insists that "the two elected candidates were not returned for the two metropolitan constituencies as believers in the taxation of food." The opposition organs refuse to be discouraged, pointing out, as the London *Chronicle* puts it, that "it is never safe to argue mathematically from a group of bye-elections to the result of a general election." The London *News*, the London *Leader*, and the London *Westminster Gazette* are of the same mind.

When the House of Commons enters upon the great debate of next month, Mr. Chamberlain may find himself called to account for a gross violation of the British constitution. So the London *Standard* thinks. Mr. Chamberlain's alleged unconstitutionality consists in the appointment, on his own unofficial responsibility,

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of a commission of experts to frame a model tariff. "This commission," announced Mr. Chamberlain last month to an enthusiastic audience at Leeds, "will comprise leading representatives of every principal industry and of every group of industries—representatives of the trade of India and the crown colonies and the great self-governing colonies. It will invite before it witnesses from every trade, and it will endeavor, after hearing all that can be said, not merely in regard to the special interests of any particular trade, but also in regard to the interests of all the other trades which may be in any sense related to it—it is going after that to frame a model tariff." The London *Times* was profoundly impressed by the breadth and scope of this idea from the first mention of it. When the names of the commissioners—they have no official authority—were announced, the London *Times* termed the list "an extremely powerful and efficient nucleus." It included "one of the largest meat-preservers and packers in the United Kingdom . . . a glass manufacturer . . . a well-known builder . . . Mr. —— who has built up the large furniture firm of —— & ——." "We could afford to laugh at the personnel," says the London *Standard*, "if the whole subject were not so grave." "The scheme is a solemn travesty of the functions which the crown, on the advice of responsible ministers, confers on those entrusted with its commission from time to time."

A RUSSIAN PRESS CIRCULAR.

SURPRISE has been expressed in the European press at the freedom and boldness with which the Russian press, which is subject to strict supervision, has been discussing foreign politics and attacking not only Japan, the United States, England, and Germany, but also the present Government of France, Russia's ally. Writers have assumed that the St. Petersburg Government was actually inspiring these aggressive press utterances for purposes of its own.

In view of these facts, the following secret circular from the Chief Press Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior will be read with interest. It is published in the *Osvobojdenie* (Emancipation), the organ of the Russian constitutionalists and liberals, issued at Stuttgart, Germany, and "illegally circulated all over Russia."

"No. 8928—September 23, 1903.

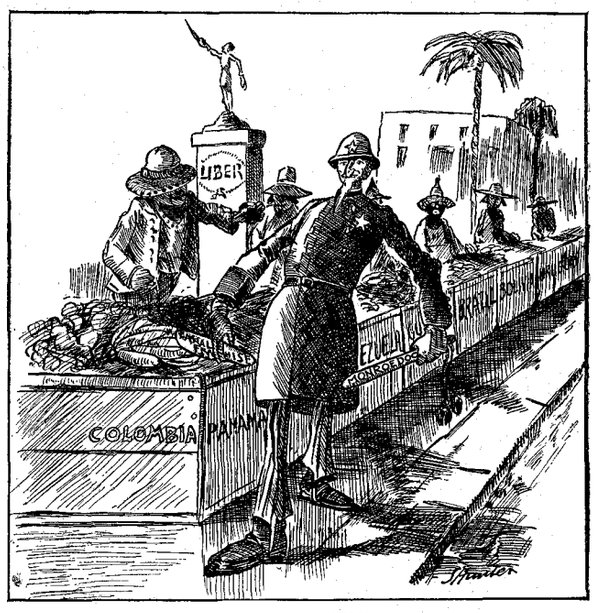
"The editors of the periodical publications have already been warned of the consequence of discussing the events occurring on the Balkan peninsula in a spirit not in harmony with the views expressed in the governmental statements. In spite of this, the organs of our periodical press to this day have continued to print articles wholly inconsistent with the pacific diplomacy of the Government and capable of causing undeniable excitement in the public mind. In addition, in the pages of some newspapers there continue to appear inappropriately severe judgments upon the existing Servian Government.

"In view of the foregoing, the Chief Bureau of the Press, in obedience to the order of the Minister of the Interior, notifies the editors of the periodical publications that, in the event of their printing further matter indicative of a disinclination or unwillingness to be guided by the suggestions above referred to concerning the Near Eastern situation, or their persisting in gratuitous assaults upon the Servian Government, the offending publications will be called to account in suitable ways."

The editor of *Osvobojdenie* says that such circulars are very frequently issued, and he invites the editors to tell the Press Bureau what a great editor of a former period, Ansakoff, said in a response to a similar threat: "I have not the smallest disposition to conform my patriotism to the official patriotism of government departments, which has a way of changing with persons and moods." He states, too, that Minister von Plehve compelled the editor of the St. Petersburg *Novosti* to dismiss his regular Paris correspondent for alleged anti-Russian articles, under a *nom de plume*, in the *Européen*, a French journal of influence.—*Translation made for* THE LITERARY DIGEST.

CANADA'S MONROE DOCTRINE.

CANADA will never consent to the purchase by the United States of the two small French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, adjacent to Newfoundland. The Dominion press avers this with vehemence. The allegation that the United States is trying to purchase the islands is pronounced "fantastic" by the *Dépêche Coloniale* (Paris), which has access to authoritative sources of information. Nevertheless, the Ottawa *Citizen* is inclined to agree with a recent military lecturer on the defenses of Canada that these two islands could at any time be disposed of by France "to an unfriendly nation, who could, by fortifying them,



HELPING HIMSELF.

COLOMBIA—"Car-r-r-amba! De p'lieceman protect us from European t'ief—an' is de biggest t'ief of all." —*World* (Toronto).

hold command of that part of the entrance to the gulf" of St. Lawrence. These islands should "be built into the fabric of the Dominion of Canada without delay," asserts the Dominion daily, which advocates a Monroe Doctrine for Canada, thus:

"Canada must establish herself firmly on the northern half of this continent and establish a Monroe Doctrine of her own. It should be announced that Canada will demand a prior option on the purchase of the French and Danish territory adjacent to her coasts and will not stand for any other nation, particularly the United States, acquiring territory within our sphere of influence. When a Tommy in barracks is troubled by an aggressive and troublesome neighbor, he draws a line with pipe-clay around his cot, and the man who passes that chalk-line knows he is up against a fight. It is about time Johnny Canuck drew his chalk-line."

French fishing rights off the Newfoundland shore must be extinguished and Newfoundland itself made part of the Dominion of Canada, thinks the Toronto *World*, which is likewise impressed by the need of a Canadian Monroe Doctrine. "Canada's frontier has been driven in by Yankee diplomacy at too many points."

POINTS OF VIEW.

ISLANDS AND SEA POWER.—"There is nothing which more thoroughly reveals to students of strategy and to naval men the absurdity of the working of the uninstructed mind," says the London *Athenæum*, "than the doctrine of the command of seas by islands in them. Seas are commanded by sea power."

ANTICLERICALISM.—"It was a petty professor retired by a small academy in the south," remarks the Roman Catholic *Correspondent* (Paris), "who lately cried that the hour of revenge had come for Julian the Apostate, and that he, too, erect upon the ruins of Christianity, forever crushed to earth by the Combes ministry, was about to say to Christ: 'Galilean, thou art conquered!'"

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NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE DAY.

ON LOVE'S OLD LYRE.

A TOUCH OF SUN AND OTHER STORIES. By Mary Hallock Foote. Cloth, 273 pp. Price, $1.50. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

FOUR novelettes dealing ostensibly with life in California and Idaho. The back ground, it is true, is a Western one of mining-camps, plains, and mountain ranges; but the burden of the tales is not a question of geography. Among Western story tellers (like Abou Ben Adhem's, their tribe *does* increase), Mrs. Foote is almost in a class by herself, in that while she stages her stories in the West, they are really so little of the West. Her chief interest is the analysis of motive, the probing of the emotions, the revelation of character—in a word, the psychologic interest.

Along this line she is gifted in an eminent degree. Her characters are lifelike and get close to the reader's heart. Her girls are wholesome, lovable creatures; her men virile, reserved, sometimes rudely strong, but gentlemen always; her mothers—well, they are very much like real mothers.

The present stories make quite passably good reading, altho they will not greatly stir the soul of the hardened reader. The author smites the lyric harp of love. The responses ripple with laughter and are dashed betimes with tears. By all odds the best and neatest of the four is the story that gives the book its name. A doting mother learns that her only son has become engaged. The girl he loves is a splendid creature, but, as it happens with California roses under the dry heat, her reputation has been blighted by a "touch of sun." It was nothing very serious, just an escapade, a brushing aside of the conventionalities. But to this mother's mind the stigma of it made the girl impossible as her son's wife. Poor mother! she worries herself dreadfully and her husband, too; but he is quite unconvinced that the world will go topsy-turvy in any case. Manlike, he trusts his grown-up son to take care of himself. The contrast between him and the flustered mother is finely presented. To her the engagement is a distinct calamity, chiefly because she thinks her son—sane, clean Willy—has blindly committed himself. And so she writes him a letter revealing the dark chapter in his sweetheart's history.

MARY HALLOCK FOOTE.

It has hardly been posted when the girl herself, uninvited, pays the old couple a visit. Follows a heart-to-heart session, both women indulging in the luxury of being miserable and turning their feelings inside out for mutual inspection, as only women can. The girl's confession sets her name in a better light before the mother, while her sweetness and strength of character overthrow the barriers of prejudice. The elder woman likes her all the better still for having decided to release Willy from the engagement.

Just before she departs next day Willy appears upon the scene, in response to his mother's tragic letter.

"I am sorry you worried so, mother," he said. "I knew it all the time."

"You did not believe it? How much of it did you believe?" asked the mother.

"Mother," he said, "do you think a man can't see what a girl is?"

"But what do you know about girls?"

"Where is she?"

Good, common-sense Willy finds her in the garden.

"Pilgrims to Mecca" is a very good story about a San Francisco girl whose Eastern-bred mother decides that she must be "finished-up" as to her education in an Eastern boarding-school. Elsie, the daughter, has a sense of humor and doesn't particularly want to be "finished-up"; besides, unknown to her mother, she has had a love affair that placed her above finishing-schools for all time. She confesses about it to her mother on the train. It being war time, the young man had enlisted, to *do* something at Elsie's order; he had hitherto done little but flunk his examinations at college. En route eastward, mother and daughter stopped over-night in Chicago. Over the wires came the news that this young man had been killed at San Juan. The blow finished Elsie's education effectively. It made her a woman. The horizons of both mother and daughter had been widened. They took the next train for home.

"The Harshaw Bride" is a pleasant comedy story of an English girl brought out to Idaho to marry a Harshaw—but not the right one. Three Harshaw men caused her a deal of worry—the one she thought she was to marry, the one who sent for her and wanted to marry her, and an elderly one back in England who decided to marry her because his delinquent son wouldn't.

A LITERARY PIN-WHEEL.

THE REIGN OF QUEEN ISYL. By Gelett Burgess and Will Irwin. Cloth, 255 pp. Price, $1.50. McClure, Phillips & Co.

THE title and the romantic name for the heroine suggest a delicious round of troubadour chivalry, in this merry product of Messrs. Burgess and Irwin; but "The Reign of Queen Isyl" is not at all that. This tandem of sparkling wits caracoles from one story to another in the fashion of the "Arabian Nights." It is like the box which, when

GELETT BURGESS.

WILL IRWIN.

opened, discloses a slightly smaller one, and so on until you have a dozen. Here, however, each story is as good as the other. There is no diminution in them. It is a lavishly persistent gush of California humor, and the reader swallows one fantastic tale after the other with undiminished relish. There is a central story from which the others sprout. This concerns the substitution of a lovely girl, Isyl Shea, for another sprightly damsel, Norine Almeric, as queen at a flower festival. For the length of the carnival the mystery of Norine's disappearance is unsolved, and this constitutes the reign of Queen Isyl. There is a love story, but the humor, the broadest California "American" brand, is what titillates the reader's palate.

Mr. Burgess is known as the editor of *The Lark*, a bright but now defunct magazinelet. The most crepitant flight of his muse had for its stimulating theme, "The Purple Cow," as unique a zoological curiosity as was ever let loose from a pen. This book of Queen Isyl disdains criticism. There can be but one mind in regard to its rollicking charm. It is a book devised only for entertainment, without any element of seriousness. For a production of its kind, it is admirably conceived and carried out, suggesting George Ade in its picturesque slang, and Robert Louis Stevenson in its arrangement.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE NOVEL.

PETRONILLA HEROVEN. By Una L. Silberrad. Cloth, 319 pp. Price, $1.50. Doubleday, Page & Co.

THIS is a refreshingly fine work of fiction, deserving of the enormous circulation which mysteriously falls to many books whose merits far from warrant it. It is a love story, tho love crowns rather than dominates it. The human interest is enthralling; the knowledge of human nature is deep; the humanity is on a lofty plane in the two principal characters. Miss Silberrad has the note of genius—creativeness. Petronilla is brilliantly unusual; no one ever met any girl like her, the more's the pity, for it were a privilege. The character, once conceived, is evolved with unerring mastery, and there is no question that she is flesh and blood. "The Woodman" is not so exceptional a type; yet while not unique, he is always a fresh and grateful personality. Hermit, he is stoic, not misanthrope. Hope has withered in his composition, but he has a native strength adversity sweetens.

UNA L. SILBERRAD.

In fact, many of the very many excellencies of this gripping story lie in the adroit way in which the author blends conflicting forces in charac-

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ter and gives the most edifying resultant. For long, she goes on as soberly and methodically as a schoolmaster teaching history. Then she brings in motives and complexity of good and bad agencies till she trembles on the brink of melodrama, and you fear she may spoil her broadly painted canvas by puerility of clamant values. She indeed barely escapes this peril, but escape it she does, altho the connoisseur of literary unity and balance sets his teeth a little at the white wolf and Philip Rundell. The *deux ex machina* of the one, and the rococo Mephistophelian devilishness of the other, in the prosaic atmosphere of Rundell St. Mary's and Wickamstead, with a ruck of bucolic *filii terræ* who do not grow very high above the sod, seem incongruously jarring. It is red lights and guttural accents in a *milieu* of cool gray ethics. But Miss Silberrad manages to retain the pregnant force and dignity of Greek tragedy despite this slight oscillation toward the spectacular.

The potent grace of the book, however, is that the outcome of Petronilla and the woodman is the exaltation of themselves. Destiny has played rough tricks with the twain, and they have taken very positive but very different ways of dealing with that mystic controller. But ultimately each, thanks to the other, evolves into finer human fiber with a touching approximation to godliness in it. Miss Silberrad, strong, contained, modern, artist *aux fonds*, is not at all shy in breathing quite a just and reverent sense of God and God's dealings. It is the more surprising as she is disciplined to unemotionality. Her method is objective. She does not draw many reflections, except in the guise of humorous flashes. She lets her characters do the annotating. Miss Silberrad's note is one of dry keenness. You feel her insight, the pungency of brain in analysis ; but the humanity of the heart does not make the page glisten. Her invention and gift for creating and developing fascinating types of men and women suffice, however, without any more emollient qualities of style than are hers. For she is lucid and trenchant almost to the point of curtness.

Miss Silberrad demonstrates so much all-round excellence as a novelist that one hereafter can scarcely help regarding any work of fiction bearing her name as something demanding perusal.

A CHAMBER OF HOHENZOLLERN HORRORS.

PRIVATE LIVES OF WILLIAM II. AND HIS CONSORT, AND SECRET HISTORY OF THE COURT OF BERLIN. From the Papers and Diaries extending over a Period beginning June, 1888, to the spring of 1898, of Ursula, Countess von Eppinghoven, Dame du Palais to Her Majesty, the Empress-Queen. By Henry W. Fischer. Two volumes. Cloth, 351 +347 pp. Price, $7 net. Published by Fischer's Foreign Letters, New York.

IN these amazing volumes, William II. of Germany is presented to the world as an epileptic degenerate, quailing before the ghastly phantoms conjured up for him by his own horror of hereditary disease. The Hohenzollern is no hero to this Boswell of a countess. She was a lady of title and position, it seems, who lost her fortune, like a heroine in some novel. Of course, she had to live. So she "accepted their Majesties' command to join the ranks of a retinue already noted for high-sounding names," which means, we are vulgar enough to presume, that she had a "pull." William II. would never have tolerated the countess at his court, surely, had he known of her passion for committing his secrets to her diary. She made notes of scraps of conversation, of the tittle-tattle of the back stairs, of the number of hours the Emperor spends in bed. But all this is prosaic foundation for a superstructure of sensation. It is not surprising to be told that William II. tried to suppress it all. Who would care to live in history on the basis of a running ear, a withered arm, and a dread of going mad?

HENRY W. FISCHER.

The countess, in her introduction, pays her respects to truth. "There is something noble in publishing it," she believes. She has in mind, naturally, the violence done to her own feelings when forced to write : "William, you must know, is never quite sure of his legs, the left one, as stated, being liable to give way at any time when his Majesty's mind is not concentrated upon posing physically as well as mentally." Everything is pitched in this key. The Emperor is heard referring to the German people as "the damned public." No servant ever receives a kind word, a gracious look from him. "Here, you!" prefaces his awful order for a glass of beer. We listen to the well-bred lies, we admire the unruffled composure of the Prussian unspeakables in the conspiracy to hide from the world the epileptic fits to which the "all highest" is subject. The countess makes us literally breathe, here, the feculence of an atmosphere Byzantine enough to transform epilepsy into an odd habit which his Majesty has of throwing himself back in his chair.

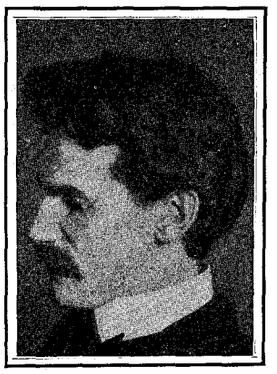
William's relations with the Deity, as expounded by the lady-in-waiting, are exceptional in spiritual experience. The attributes of the King of Heaven, he conceives, attach themselves, in a mode specifically religious, to the person of a Prussian monarch. In this theory we have the firm foundation of the monarchical principle as upheld in Prussia, "damned republics,"—as they are called at court,—being supported by no divine revelation whatever. Prussia is referred to by William II. as "God's ally," while his ordinary designation for himself is "God's anointed." The sentiment he cherishes for Frederick the Great approaches idolatry. The immortal friend of Voltaire is to William the master autocrat of all time. The imperial den is glorified with busts of Frederick the Great, images of Frederick the Great, paintings of Frederick the Great, and when his head strikes the stars William quotes Frederick the Great.

But all this is a mere scratching of the subject on its surface. The countess works every vein remorselessly into the heart of the mine. Now and then she drifts into what she calls "high politics," notably when she says William had fully made up his mind to intervene forcibly in Cuba on behalf of Spain, whereupon the imperial Chancellor used plainer speech than a military autocrat usually hears. In the main, the Hohenzollern of these volumes is a haunted man, too fearful to face his fate, too ignoble to spare his widowed mother the humiliation of being turned out of the palace in which the life of his father had ebbed away. These things—and much besides—are extraordinary, if true, we think; and if untrue, they are more extraordinary still.

WILD ANIMALS AT HOME.

A LITTLE BROTHER TO THE BEAR, AND OTHER ANIMAL STORIES. By William J. Long. Illustrated by Charles Copeland. Cloth, 280 pp. Price, $1.50 net. Ginn & Co.

THE Rev. William J. Long prefers to make his "little journeys" to the homes of the wood-folk unencumbered by any means of making and recording his observations other than those with which nature has provided him : the crystalline lens, the retinal film, and the fixing solution of a memory with a strong affinity for the curious and extraordinary.



WILLIAM J. LONG.

Mr. Long gives "three good reasons" why he hunts without gun or camera :

"First, because it is lazy and satisfying ; second, because it has no troubles, no vexations, no disappointments ; and third, because it lets you into the life and individuality of the wild animals as no other hunting can possibly do. The animals show themselves natural and unconcerned," etc.

Hunting in this easy fashion, Mr. Long has beheld many marvels in the animal world. Before his eyes, a woodcock, knowing, presumably, that neither gun nor photographic plate was to catch it in the act, has bound up its wounded leg with mud and fibers of grass. He has seen two eider-ducks that, knowing salt-water to be ineffective for their purpose, had flown inland and were dipping their heads in a fresh-water pond in order to drown clams that had closed themselves on their tongues. His brain has whirled with watching deer performing in a three-ring circus intricate yet orderly evolutions that would make a ring-master with a string of circus ponies hide his diminished head. Mr. Long's prejudice against the camera is to be specially regretted in the last instance. Indeed, it would have taken a kinetoscope photographer to do justice to the scene. In a preceding book, "School of the Woods," Mr. Long aroused the ire of John Burroughs and other naturalists by narrating instances similar to the above of the marvellous reasoning power of animals. (For a synopsis of the dispute between Mr. Burroughs and Mr. Long on this point see THE LITERARY DIGEST for April 4, 1903.) The present work indicates that Mr. Long intends to "stand by his guns" in the controversy, even tho he has discarded such implements in his researches. It must be conceded, too, that he presents his observations in a most attractive manner. From poetic title, a charming euphemism for the animal vulgarly known as 'coon, to artistic tail-piece, a white-tailed deer wig-wagging, in the code described by Thompson-Seton, a signal of farewell as it disappears in a thicket, the book compels the admiration of every lover of literary style and graphic art. What if a few connoisseurs of natural history declare that to be readily swallowed the work requires a few grains of salt? To the general reader, whose taste for fiction has been, perhaps, a trifle overdeveloped, the rather "high" flavor of these animal stories will smack most acceptably just as they are.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE LITERARY DIGEST is in receipt of the following books:

"Elementary Guide to Literary Criticism."—F. V. N. Painter. (195 pp.; price, $0.90 net. Ginn & Co., Boston.)

"Greek Sculpture, its Spirit and Principles."—Edmund von Mach. (359 pp.; price, $4.50. Ginn & Co.)

"The Rubaiyat."—A new paraphrase by R. W. Whitney. (The Miner Studio, Cleveland, O.)

"The Young Man Entering Business."—Orison S. Marden. (T. Y. Crowell & Co.)

"The Courtship of Miles Standish."—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. With illustrations by Howard Chandler Christy. (152 pp. Bobbs-Merrill Company.)

"The Consul."—A sketch of Emma Booth Tucker by Commander Booth Tucker. (Paper, $0.30. Salvation Army Publishing Department.)

"Pioneering in Central Africa."—Samuel P. Verner. (312 pp.; $2 net. Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va.)

"Betty Zane."—P. Zane Gray. (291 pp. Charles Francis Press, New York.)

Current Events.

Foreign.

THE FAR EAST.

December 28.—The Japanese Privy Council approves the issue of $10,000,000 loan for the completion of the Seoul-Fusan Railway in Korea, and the payment of military expenses.

December 30.—Reports from European capitals state that fears of war between Russia and Japan were growing. Japan purchases two Argentine cruisers and is negotiating for the purchase of two Chilian war-ships.

January 2.—A powerful Japanese squadron is soon to leave Saseho for Masampho, Korea.

January 3.—The Japanese press urges an immediate declaration of war, which it says is inevitable; Japanese troops are ready to embark on transports.

PANAMA AND COLOMBIA.

December 28.—General Reyes, in the note embodying the Colombian claims, asks the United States to restore the *status quo ante* on the Isthmus and to hold aloof while Colombia attempts to force Panama into submission. In case of failure, he urges that the matter be submitted to The Hague tribunal.

December 29.—Minister Beaupré's despatches from Bogota to the State Department are made public by the resolution of Congress.

December 31.—Colombians land at Carti, Panama, and take away an Indian chief; they are pursued by American war-ships.

January 1.—A rumor at Colon states that the *General Pinzon*, a Colombian cruiser, had been sunk by United States war-ships.

January 3.—The cruiser *Topeka* and two torpedo-boats are ordered to Colon.

OTHER FOREIGN NEWS.

December 28.—Four thousand men under Bulgarian leaders are ready to invade Turkish territory.

December 29.—Dominican rebels attack the provisional government forces in Santo Domingo.

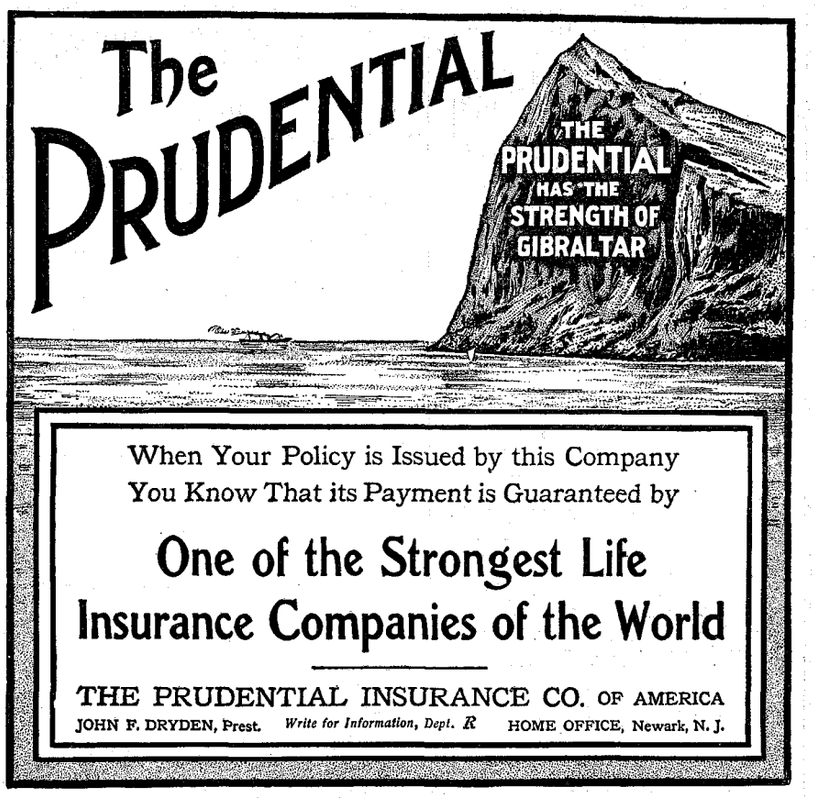
The Bolivian Congress ratifies the treaty settling the Acre dispute.

December 30.—The Panama Canal Company in Paris votes to continue the existing engagements with the United States.

Etienne Brisson is elected to succeed M. Bourgeois as president of the French Chamber of Deputies.

The Transvaal Legislative Council decides in favor of the introduction of Asiatic labor.

December 31.—The Skinner expedition returns to Jibutil from Adis Abeba, having negotiated a commercial treaty between the United States and Abyssinia.



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January 2.—A revolution breaks out in Uruguay.

January 3.—The Peruvian Congress approves the treaty with Bolivia for the arbitration of the boundary dispute.

Domestic.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

December 30.—Five hundred and ninety lives are lost in a fire and stampede in the Iroquois Theater, Chicago.

December 31.—Efforts to fix the responsibility are begun. Seven employees of the theater are arrested on charges of manslaughter.

January 1.—The managers of the Iroquois Theater, Chicago, with Commissioner of Buildings of that city, are held in $10,000 bail each, in connection with the disaster at that city; Mayor Harrison orders every theater in the city closed until all the ordinances in relation to amusement-places are obeyed.

OTHER DOMESTIC NEWS.

December 28.—Western packing-houses have received large rush orders for beef from the Russian War Department.

The Cuban reciprocity treaty becomes effective.

The cruisers *Dixie* and *New York* are ordered to Panama.

December 29.—President Roosevelt directs an inquiry by United States diplomatic and consular agents in Russia, to ascertain facts about the contemplated massacres of Jews at Kishineff.

It is said that the Smoot case, now before a Senate committee, might result in a thorough inquiry into the practises and policies of the Mormon Church.

December 30.—President Roosevelt denies reports that he had offered the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee to various persons; Senator Hanna has not decided as to whether or not he will retain the chairmanship.

January 1.—The President shakes hands with nearly 7,000 civilians at the New Year's reception at the White House.

January 3.—Five thousand men employed by the Carnegie Steel Company threaten to strike if the cut in wages ordered is insisted upon by the company.

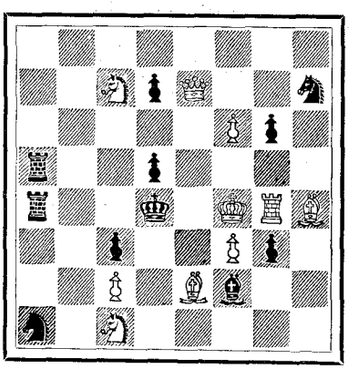
CHESS.

[All communications for this Department should be addressed: "Chess Editor, LITERARY DIGEST."]

Problem 894.

Composed for THE LITERARY DIGEST by MURRAY MARBLE and the REV. GILBERT DOBBS.

Black—Eleven Pieces.



White—Ten Pieces.

8; 2SpQ2s; 5Pp1; r2p4; r2k1KRB; 2p2Pp1; 2P1Bb2; s1S5.

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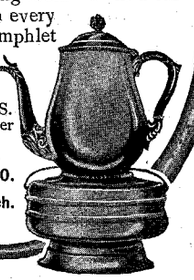

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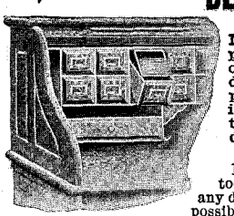

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Problem 895.

By F. W. WYNNE,

First Prize, *Football and Field* Tourney,

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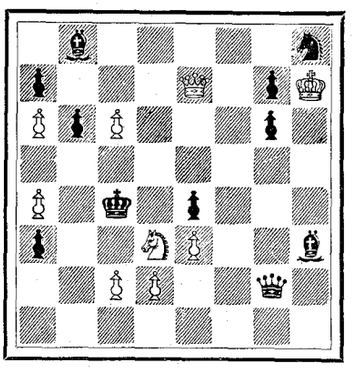

White—Nine Pieces.

1 b 5 s; p 3 Q 1 p K; P p P 3 p 1; 8; P 1 k 1 p 3; p 2 S P 2 b; 2 P P 2 q 1; 8.

White mates in three moves.

Solution of Problems.

No. 888. Key-move: Kt—B 4.

No. 889.

1. B—B 2 / K—B 4	2. B—B 8 ch / K—Q 5	3. Kt—B 6, mate
	2. ..... / K—Kt 4	3. P x Kt, mate
1. ..... / Q x B	2. Q—R 5 / Q x Q	3. Kt x P, mate
	2. ..... / Other	3. Q or Kt, mate
1. ..... / R x Kt	2. Q—K 3 ch / P x Q	3. B x P, mate
1. ..... / P x P	2. Kt x K P ch / Q x Kt	3. Q—B 2, mate

Solved by M. W. H., University of Virginia; the Rev. I. W. B., Bethlehem, Pa.; M. Marble, Worcester, Mass.; the Rev. G. Dobbs, New Orleans; F. S. Ferguson, Birmingham, Ala.; H. W. Barry, Boston; A. C. White, New York City; F. Gamage, Westboro, Mass.; O. C. Pitkin, Syracuse, N. Y.; T. Hilgers, Union Hill, N. J.; C. B. E., Youngstown, O.; W. T. St. Auburn, Grossepointe Farms, Mich.; Arata, New York City; Dr. J.H.S., Geneva, N. Y.; C. N. F., Rome, Ga.

888: "Twenty-three," Philadelphia; Z. G., Detroit; Dr. E. B. Kirk, Montgomery, Ala.; A. H., Newton Center, Mass.; C. W. Shewalter, Washington, D. C.; R. R. R., San Antonio, Tex.; J. B. Weber, West Seneca, N. Y.; J. Poor, Haverhill, N. H.; J. H. Louden, Bloomington, Ind.; E. A. Kusell, Oroville, Cal.

889: The Rev. J. G. Law, Walhalla, S. C.; E. A. C., Kinderhook, N. Y.; H. H. and S. B., Corning, Ark.

Comments (888): "Very good. The key is not ideal, as the Kt is obviously 'out'"—M. M.; "A strong problem with a weak key"—G. D.; "The

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THE LEXICOGRAPHER'S EASY CHAIR

In this column, to decide questions concerning the correct use of words, the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary is consulted as arbiter.

"L.," Manchester, England—"In spite of my good feeling for America, I must say that I do greatly dislike your Americanisms. They tend to corrupt the language, and I find these corruptions are gradually creeping into newspaper English on this side. For example, in your LITERARY DIGEST I now and then read the phrase 'right away,' meaning, I suppose, 'soon.' If you do mean *soon* why do you not say so? Among 'the many good things America gives us' is some very bad English."

Our English cousin, "L." we fear, will have to reconcile himself to the use of "right away." It is a forceful phrase that means *now, at once*—not "soon." And it has so firm a hold in the United States that there is very little possibility of its being dislodged. But is it quite certain that this is an Americanism? Many a so-called Americanism has been found, after research, to be good Chaucerian or Shakespearian English. Thackeray, in his "Pendennis," vol. i., ch. 3, speaks of a woman who "used to melt *right away* and be absorbed into her pocket-handkerchief." The phrase as used here has probably a little different meaning, the author intending to describe the degree of sorrow with which she was affected. Yet it probably would not be difficult to find in standard English books the phrase used in the American sense complained of above.

By the way, "L." is not the first Englishman who has run counter to this same unlucky phrase. Dickens records his funny experience with it in "American Notes," as follows:

"Dinner, if you please," said I to the waiter.

"When?" said the waiter.

"As quick as possible," said I.

"Right away?" said the waiter.

After a moment's hesitation, I answered, "No," at hazard.

"*Not* right away?" cried the waiter, with an amount of surprise that made me start,

I looked at him doubtfully, and returned, "No; I would rather have it in this private room. I like it very much."

At this, I really thought the waiter must have gone out of his mind; as I believe he would have done but for the interposition of another man, who whispered in his ear "Directly."

"Well! and that's a fact!" said the waiter, looking helplessly at me: "Right away."

I saw now that "right away" and "directly" were one and the same thing. So I reversed my previous answer, and sat down to dinner in ten minutes afterwards; and a capital dinner it was.

"Critic."—In our issue for December 12th, read *stigmatizing* for "stigmating."

To several Correspondents.—The phrase, "she raised children" is sometimes used by good writers. It would be better, we think, to restrict this meaning of the word *raise* to animals, as, he *raised* cattle. We *bring up* children. (See *Faulty Diction* in the STANDARD DICTIONARY.)

Pronounce—

in'-teresting, not interest'-ing
indis'-putable, not indispu'-table
fin'-an-cier' not fi'-nan-cier

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Operating Expenses and Taxes	82,979.79
Net	$ 100,440.13
Fixed Charges	46,960.23
	$ 53,479.90
Charged off Acc't maintenance and depreciation	26,955.11
Surplus for Stock	$ 26,524.79

Amount required for six months' dividends on total Preferred Stock issue, $15,000. The net earnings, after fixed charges and maintenance, are now equal to twice the amount required to pay Preferred dividends. More than half the net surplus applicable to stock was charged off for maintenance and depreciation.

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mates are many and beautiful but the key is apparent"—F. S. F.; "Endless interesting 'tries'"—W. T. St. A.; "No other excuse for the otherwise superfluous Kt"—J. H. S.; "Very difficult"—"Twenty-three"; "Seemed to defy solution"—Z. G.; "Fine setting"—E. B. K.; "One of the best"—A. H.

889: "Very difficult after 1. $\frac{\ldots\ldots}{Q \times B}$"—M. W. H.; "Very clever"—M. M.; "A subtle key and intricate variations make it a problem of the first rank"—F. S. F.; "The finest second move I have met with"—W. T. St. A.; "Modest key. Fine after-play"—J. H. S.; "Leading variations are superb"—C. N. F.; "Choice"—J. G. L.

In addition to those reported, W. R. Coumbe, Mulberry, Fla., got 882; J. H. L., E. A. K., and J. P., 886.

Intercollegiate Chess.

The twelfth annual Intercollegiate Chess-Tournament was played in New York City, beginning on Monday, December 28. Harvard won the championship.

THE SCORE:

	Won.	Lost.
Harvard	9	3
Yale	7	5
Columbia	4½	7½
Princeton	3½	8½

INDIVIDUAL SCORES:

Harvard.	Won.	Lost.	*Columbia.*	Won.	Lost.
Carr	3	0	Tucker	1½	1½
Bridgman	2	1	Barshell	1½	1½
Brackett	2	1	Lazinsk	1	2
McClure	2	1	Schroeder	½	2½
Total	9	3	Total	4½	7½

Yale.	Won.	Lost.	*Princeton.*	Won.	Lost.
Mather	3	0	Ward	2	1
Adams	2½	½	Mowry	1½	1½
Sandiford	1	2	Schoonmaker	0	3
Palmer	½	2½	Brasher	0	3
Total	7	5	Total	3½	8½

RECORD OF THE TOURNAMENTS:

Year.	Columbia.	Harvard.	Yale.	Princeton.
1892	9	7½	5	2½
1893	8½	7	5	3½
1894	3	9	6	6
1895	8	8½	3½	4
1896	4½	10	4	5½
1897	6½	10	4½	3
1898	8½	10	2½	3
1899	8½	9	5	1½
1900	8½	6	3½	6
1901	6½	5½	7½	4½
1902	7½	6	7	3½
1903	4½	9	7	3½
Totals	83½	97½	60½	46½

Columbia won the trophy four times: 1892, 1893, 1900, 1902; Harvard, seven times: 1894 to 1899 and 1903; Yale, once, 1901.

Janowski Beats Taubenhaus.

The Paris Match is finished. Janowski showed his superiority over Taubenhaus, by a score of 5 to 1, and 4 draws.

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